

# Nepal Monthly Situation Update



Issue No. 63, covering the period 1- 31 July 2010

Kathmandu, 11 August 2010

## I. HIGHLIGHTS

- Ministry of Health and Population confirmed 14 cholera positive cases in Nepalgunj
- Monsoon floods and landslides claimed 69 deaths across 28 districts
- Nepal HCT launched Mid Year Review of Nepal Humanitarian Transition Appeal 2010
- CERF secretariat approved US\$2million for Nepal
- Fourth Prime Ministerial election failed to select PM from the majority

## II. CONTEXT

### *Political Development*

The big three political parties were unable to meet neither the 7 July deadline nor the five-day extension set by President Ram Baran Yadav for the formation of a national unity government. Consequently, the President initiated proceedings to elect the Prime Minister through a majority vote in the Legislature-Parliament (LP), issuing a letter to this effect on 12 July.

The NC nominated its parliamentary party leader Ram Chandra Poudel as its Prime Ministerial candidate, while the UML nominated its party Chairman Jhalanath Khanal, and the UCPN-M nominated its party chairman Prachanda as their prime ministerial candidates. Khanal withdrew his candidacy just prior to the first round of voting on 21 July when he failed to get the assurance for two thirds majority support – a condition set by his party to enter into the voting.

The Madheshi parties in Parliament - Madheshi People's Rights Forum – Democratic (MPRF-D), Tarai Madhesh Democratic Party (TMDP) and Sadbhavana Party (SP) as well as the opposition Madheshi People's Rights Forum (MPRF) – met on 16 July and decided to revive the United Democratic Madhesi Front (UDMF), a coalition of Madheshi parties in parliament, with the view that it would help them play a bigger role in the formation of the new government and the drafting of the new constitution. The UDMF set several conditions in exchange of its support to the major parties during voting. Both the NC and the UCPN-M provided written commitment to the UDMF but it remained unsatisfied. If it stays united, the UDMF is the fourth largest political force in the Constituent Assembly with 82 seats.

Following the UDMF and the UML's decision to remain neutral during voting, the parliament failed to elect a new Prime Minister (PM) despite four rounds of voting (the last vote took place on 6 August) as neither Nepali Congress (NC) Parliamentary Party leader Ram Chandra Poudel nor Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (UCPN-M) Chairman Pushpa Khamal Dahal "Prachanda" could secure a simple majority. The fifth round of elections has been scheduled for 18 August.

The constitution-drafting process continued to be sidelined by political deadlock, with no significant developments since the extension of the Constituent Assembly (CA) tenure on 28 May and the adoption of a nine-month timeline for the promulgation of the constitution by April 2011.

Following opposition by the Madheshi parties, the decision to establish the State Restructuring Commission (SRC) has been halted, despite agreement by the three major parties on 14 July to appoint members to the SRC and begin work by 31 July. The three major parties had agreed to prepare a report within two months on names, numbers and boundaries of the federal units. The Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) has opposed the formation of the SRC on the basis that any decision on the formation of federal units falls under the jurisdiction of the CA Committee for State Restructuring and Devolution of State Power. Equally, 17 small political parties represented in the CA also condemned the SRC as they had not been consulted on its formation.

On 17 July, the NC, in coordination with the UML, published a concept paper on integration and rehabilitation (I/R) of Maoist Army (MaoA) foreseeing completion in two phases within roughly five months. However, the plan is weighted so that most of the steps, including finalization of the rehabilitation packages and separation of the combatants, occur in the first four weeks.

On 18 July a national news magazine published details of a report prepared by the Nepal Army (NA) in coordination with the Ministry of Defence that questions UNMIN's role and legitimacy. The report criticizes

the Mission's monitoring work and alleges that UNMIN has overstepped its mandate and been unfair in its treatment of the NA. According to interlocutors the NA report was prepared in the context of the last UNMIN mandate extension and used by the NA to lobby politicians and the government for either (i) no UNMIN extension or (ii) ending UNMIN monitoring of the NA. The report has now been made public in the context of UNMIN's June non-paper on a timeline for technical aspects of integration and rehabilitation.

In response to publicity surrounding an UNMIN non-paper on I/R, UNMIN's spokesperson clarified that this non-paper was a reference document only, provided to the parties to facilitate discussion over the future of MaoA personnel and the winding up of UNMIN.

Finance Minister presented a Special Financial Bill under Article 96 (a) of the Interim Constitution in order to avert a crisis due to the failure to present the annual estimates of revenues and expenditures by the deadline of 15 July. The Special Bill will authorize the government to spend up to one third of the budget of the fiscal year 2009/2010 in the upcoming fiscal year. The Government has brought in the special budget as a temporary arrangement to allow the continuation of routine expenditure and revenue collection in the new financial year, which starts on 17 July.

## **Protests**

In protest of the killing of a district-level party leader in Okhaldhunga district by an unidentified group on 8 July, UML announced nationwide protests from 12 to 19 July. The incident further soured relations between UML and UCPN-M, with the PM and other senior UML leaders accusing Maoist district-level leaders of being involved in the killing, alleging that the deceased had frequently been threatened by the Maoists in the past. Maoist leaders denied this, and reportedly agreed to form a committee to investigate the killing.

'Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities' (NEFIN) has announced a series of protest programmes from 18 July to 15 August, to pressurize for the 'Guarantee of Rights of the Indigenous People' in the new constitution. They are reported to have announced to carry out a 'Nationwide Torch Rally' on 14 August and 'Blocking all the Entry Points to the Capital on 15 August.

Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha-Goit (JTMM-G) has called Dhanusa, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Siraha district Banda protesting against the killing of their cadres- Akash Tyagi a year ago and killing of Bhola Yadav on 4 July, 2010.

The agitating 'Student Unions' who staged a sit-in at the 'Central Department of Tribhuvan University' (TU), protesting against the TU's decision to phase out the 'Proficiency Level Certificate' (PCL), obstructed TU officials from entering the university with the aim to bring the entire university work to a standstill as part of the pressure campaign. They also locked up the Vice Chancellor, registrar, and rector in their respective offices.. The sit in protest ended up following an agreement between the agitating student unions and the education ministry on 23 July. The three major student unions, Maoist-affiliated All Nepal National Independent Students' Union (ANNISU-R), NC affiliated Nepal Students' Union (NSU) and UML affiliated All Nepal National Free Students' Union (ANNFSU) agreed to end their strike against PCL phase out after the Ministry of Education (MoE) agreed to make higher secondary education more accessible. At the agreement signed on 23 July, MoE agreed to intensify the process to open community Higher Secondary Schools (HSS) teaching science along with other streams in all 240 constituencies of the country with a quota for at least three teachers paid by the government. The ministry has also agreed to gradually increase the teacher quotas and add staff at the HSS.

Locals affected by the floods triggered in Sunsari Khola (river) reportedly staged a demonstration with empty plates demanding relief packages in Inaruwa, Sunsari district on 26 July. They accused the local administration of not taking any measures to provide relief and demanded the reconstruction of the houses that have been destroyed by the floods. After the demonstration, District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) held a dialogue with the agitators; however, no concrete decisions were made through the dialogue. The flood affected people were demanding the relief package for the loss of houses and property.

## **Operational Space**

Resignations due to threats from the Samyukta Jatiya Mukti Morcha-SJMM (Unified Ethnic Liberation Front) continued during the reporting period, with Village Development Committee (VDC) Secretaries in Kalikot district submitting their notice on 6 July to the District Development Committee Office. Over the past seven months, (1 January-31 July), VDC secretaries in 34 districts have reportedly received written or verbal threats to resign from their post. Of these VDC secretaries in 40 districts received threats to resign from SJMM alone since June 2010. In 29 districts, VDC secretaries submitted their resignation citing insecurity as of 7 July. In eight districts resignation has been withdrawn. On 8 July, police in Nawalparasi reportedly arrested Kul Prasad Bhattarai 'Kushum', district in-charge of SJMM on charge of issuing threats to VDC secretaries.

All the Village Development Committee (VDC) secretaries of Udayapur and Khotang districts resigned en masse on 25 July citing increased insecurity and threats. The secretaries submitted their joint resignation from the Centre for Protection of Rights of VDC Secretaries (CPRVS) to Local development Officer (LDO).

Development Officer (LDO) after receiving written threats for resignation or face physical action from the Samyukta Jatiya Mukti Morcha (SJMM). Similarly, the VDC secretaries of Bhojpur district have resigned en masse on 19 July following the threat from SJMM. The VDC secretaries of Morang district have been displaced to the district headquarters on 18 July following the threat of physical action from SJMM. Meanwhile, the VDC secretaries of Sunsari district withdrew their joint resignation on 29 July and returned to work following the assurance of security from local administration and political parties.

## **Safety and Security**

Kali Bahadur Kham “Bibidh”, a UCPN-M Central Committee member and the Commander of the Maoist army (MaoA)’s Fifth Division, has been accused of masterminding the robbery of NPR 2,620,000 (US\$ 34,933) from three Chinese traders in Kathmandu on 9 July. The Government claims that he is being sheltered by the UCPN-M, but the party has denied knowledge of his whereabouts. On 16 July, the Home Minister requested that UCPN-M chairman hand him over to the police and the same day police conducted raids on the houses of three Maoist parliamentarians, but did not find “Bibidh”. On 19 July, a national daily reported that Mr. Kham was taking shelter in the MaoA Commander Nanda Kishor Pun “Pasang”’s house. “Bibidh” is also wanted by police in connection with the killing of businessman Ram Hari Shrestha in Main Cantonment Site 3, Chitwan – of which he was then the Commander - in 2008.

On 5 July, UCPN-M cadres vandalized the office of a newspaper in Dhangadhi, allegedly for publishing a report about their extortion of a Dalit man. It was reported that the attack was a result of a personal dispute between the newspaper’s editor and a UCPN-M cadre who felt “discredited” by the misreporting. The UCPN-M issued a press release committing to establish the truth about the incident.

On 15 July, an improvised explosive device was detonated in Nuwakot district, allegedly to intimidate the Village Development Committee (VDC) Secretaries in the district into resigning. According to media reports, Samyukta Jatiya Mukti Morcha (Unified Ethnic Liberation Front) claimed responsibility for the incident. This follows resignations by VDC secretaries in Kailali district after threats from the same group.

Police arrested eastern military commander of Goit-led Akhil Tarai Mukti Morcha (ATMM), along with a home made pistol and bullets from Lahan, Siraha district on 27 July. The arrestee was in the wanted list of police for a long time, on charge of involvement in murder, kidnappings and extortion.

Similarly, on 21 July, Police arrested four central members of Janantark Tarai Mukti Morcha- Goit faction (JTMM-G) from Laxmaniya of Dhanusa district. Likewise, Police arrested a deputy field commander of Limbuwan Volunteers, affiliated with Federal Limbuwan State Council (FLSC), on the charge of abduction on 18 July from Anarmani of Jhapa district.

According to Regional Police Office, Cadres of SJMM detonated an IED (Socket bomb) at Murkuchi bazaar of Rauta VDC in Udaypur district, on 27 July. A pamphlet was also found at the site that claimed the responsibility of the explosion by SJMM. No human casualties reported. Meanwhile, eleven persons were injured when an improvised explosive device exploded in a busy market of Kalaiya Municipality-6 of Bara district on 17 July. According to Police, a tiffin box was improvised for detonation and it contained pieces of iron nails.

## **Humanitarian and Cluster/Sector Updates**

### *Diarrhoea Update*

**Situation:** Following the monsoon rains over the past few weeks and a contamination of drinking water sources, diarrhoea cases are on the rise in several districts. Eight diarrhoea-related deaths have been reported in Banke, five in Dang and four in Gorkha districts. In Nepalgunj, Banke district, Vibrio Cholerae has been detected in 14 out of 21 stool samples from patients suffering from diarrhoea. Over 1200 cases have been reported and treated at the three major hospitals in the city. According to DPHO Banke, the main reason behind the increased number of diarrhoea cases are polluted water sources and water supply lines, the contamination of water as a result of the recent floods, the lack of a proper drainage system and the lack of personal and environmental sanitation awareness in the society. Tests conducted by a team from the Epidemiology & Disease Control Division from Kathmandu in Ward number 4 and 5 found that both tap and hand pump water were highly contaminated. DPHO Banke has estimated that around 32,078 people in Nepalgunj are at high risk of a potential infection.

**Response:** Several health cluster meetings, a Wash cluster meeting, an Education Cluster meeting and a DDRC meeting were conducted between 28 July and 08 August to coordinate the response. As a prevention

measure, all public and private schools were closed for two days between 05 and 06 August. UNICEF Regional Office Nepalgunj has provided 3,800 Water guard and 1,200 Pyush to DPHO Banke on 30 July. Water guard and Pyush are being distributed in the affected wards through Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) and other volunteers. Besides these, DPHO has been provided with Posters and Pamphlets about the prevention and curing of diarrhoea and cholera. Local FM Stations are broadcasting information about the prevention and awareness of diarrhoea and cholera and their causes with the help of Plan International. Health and Hygiene Education Information is being provided across affected wards by UNESCO volunteers, Red Cross with the assistance of SCF and RUSUF, an NGO in Banke district.

#### *Launch of Nepal Humanitarian Transition Appeal 2010*

Nepal HCT launched the Mid Year Review (MYR) of the Nepal Humanitarian Transition Appeal 2010 on 26 July. The Appeal includes 20 projects from four clusters/sectors: Food Security and Nutrition, Disaster Preparedness, Refugee and Coordination with total requirements of US\$ 125 million.

The second annual round of Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF) allocations is linked to the CAP Mid-Year Reviews. In the second CERF underfunded round of 2010, Nepal provisionally received US\$ 2 million, which will be allocated to priority life-saving projects in health, food security and nutrition, and water and sanitation.

#### *Floods and Landslides Update*

According to the Situation Update (Disaster Monitoring report) issued by Nepal Red Cross Society on 9 August, total of 28 districts were affected by flood and landslides. The floods and landslides have claimed 69 lives, 19 missing and 21 injured during the period of 22 June to 9 August, affecting 863 families. The highest numbers of casualties has been reported from Dolakha with nine deaths, seven from Dhading, and five each from Syangja, Kaski and Jajarkot districts due to landslides. Summary of the major incidents (flood and landslides) and response activities is given below (however this is not a comprehensive list of floods and landslides across the country).

#### **Jhapa district:**

**Situation:** Flooding in Biring, Ratuwa, Kamala, Kankai and Mechi Rivers affected to 22 VDCs and 3 municipalities. Altogether 225 families were displaced for a short period due to the flood. Now, almost all the families returned back to their places of origin after repairing and maintenance of their houses and resumed their normal livelihoods. The floods led to an estimated six deaths (3 dead bodies found and 3 people missing). An estimated loss of property and infrastructure worth more than NRS 33.2 million (US\$454,794.00) and more than 1,000 bigahs<sup>1</sup> of crop land has been reported. Floods caused damage in irrigation channels and roads. About 109 livestock were affected due to flood. Vehicular movement was obstructed for one and half days due to damage in culvert at Padajungi point in East-West highway. Houses made of mud and thatch grass were damaged.

**Response:** Security personnel of Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and Nepal Army responded to the flood affected people and rescued various people with assistance from the local population. DDMC identified the 12 risk points to flooding in the districts and requested NRS. 13.7 million (\$187,671.00) from the Central Natural Disaster Response Committee/Ministry of Home Affairs (CNDRC/MoHA) for flood risk reduction. Save the Children provided 200 Non Food Item (NFI) sets to NRCS who then distributed 194 NFIs to displaced families. NRCS also distributed emergency food items to the displaced families with support of local NGOs and community based organizations (CBOs)/clubs in coordination of DDMC. No further assistance required.



Photo 1: Flood Response in Jhapa, SC

Similarly, Save the Children (SC) deployed its central and regional technical persons in the field to assess the situation and provided necessary technical and other required support. As requested by DDRRC, 200 Shelter kits were provided to the flood affected families in Jhapa district from its ware house in Biratnagar.

<sup>1</sup> One bigha equals about 0.677 hectare (1.67 acres).

### **Sunsari district:**

**Situation:** The swollen Sunsari River displaced nearly 700 families in 11 VDCs, including Narsigh, Simariya, Bokhaha, Rajgunj, Chimadi, Ramgunj Belganchi, Laukahi, Bhutaha, Amaduwa and Harinagara. Most of the displaced families have returned back to their houses after two days of displacement. 43 families, resident of both sides and north of Sunsari Khola bridge, are taking shelter at Gayanodaya Lower secondary school and 23 families of Khicharipatti are residing in open space at Sunsari ward no. 6. The flood affected people are demanding the relief package for the loss of houses and property.

**Response:** District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) requested all I/NGOs to provide the relief material through the coordination of the DDMC once all the affected families have returned to their place of origin (not in temporary shelters/school). Save the Children, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) visited the flood affected areas and assessed the situation and the protection issues. No external assistance requested.

Security personnel rescued the affected people in Sunsari district. NRCS, SC and UPCA Nepal; a local NGO; distributed 81 baby kits and 46 shelter and to displaced children and families respectively in coordination with the DDMC on 27th July which benefited 274 people. Among the recipients 44 were Dalit and 127 were from marginalised Janjati communities.

### **Morang district:**

**Situation:** The swollen Singhiya Khola and Kaseliya River led to short term displacement in the landless settlement situated at the river bank. About 996 families were affected. Most of the displaced families have returned back to their houses once the flood water receded. Few families are still residing in Gayatri Secondary School, Biratnagar. According to DDMC, those families will return back to their houses very soon.

**Response:** Security personnel along with locals responded immediately to the affected communities. NRCS and local CBOs distributed NFIs, food and some cash support within the coordination of DDMC. No further response is required.

### **Kailali district:**

**Situation:** Following heavy rainfall between 18 and 20 July, floods affected Ramshikharjhala, Pahalmanpur, Khailad, Bhajanai, Lalbojhi and Phubari VDCs in Kailali. 178 households were inundated, and 500-600 people displaced. Three schools in Ramshikharjhala VDC were destroyed and 66 bigaha of arable land eroded.

On 30 July, floods caused temporary displacement of around 500 families on either side of the East-West Highway at Pahalmanpur, in Masuriya, Basauti and Ramshikharjhala VDCs. NRCS has distributed 20 NFI kits to some affected families. NRCS assessment is ongoing. Due to the rainfall, a wooden bridge in Kailali (about 2 km from Maoist Cantonment Site 7 in Masuriya) that linked the East-West Highway to the camp has been damaged.

**Response:** The displaced were sheltered in schools, the community forest and a 'Safe Rehab Centre'. CSSD constructed two shelters in Lalbojhi and one in Dhansingpur. One shelter in Mohanpur has been constructed by Mercy Corps. According to a field survey conducted by FAO in Pahalmanpur, Bhajani, Lalbojhi and Ramshikharjhala VDC, the overall situation was better than highlighted in the media. Water levels of Mohana and Kandra River have gone down and there is no immediate risk of floods anymore. Displaced families have started returning to their homes.

### **Kanchanpur district:**

**Situation:** Altogether, around 190 families have been displaced, 26 houses destroyed and 260 houses inundated by floods in the district between 18 and 21 July. 52 families including ex-kamaiya and landless people in Bandevi camp who were displaced by floods on 19 July returned to their homes two days later. 15 houses have been damaged and 55 partially inundated. The Banara River damaged two houses and displaced 10 families from Krishnapur. Another seven houses were inundated in the Tribhuvanabasti Rehab Center in Ratokhali, Tribhuvanabasti VDC displacing 20-25 families. In Bhimdutta Municipality-9, one house was destroyed by floods, 19 houses are at high risk of flooding in the area. In the Kamhari Camp in Krishnapur, around 200 houses were inundated.

**Response:** NRCS Kanchanpur sent a Rapid Assessment team to the area and mobilized DDRC Volunteers. Rainfall stopped on 21 July and the water levels in the rivers started to decrease. Displaced families were able to return to their homes.

## **Dolpa district:**

**Situation:** Ten people, nine of whom from the same family are still missing suspected dead after a landslide hit Kaparghat Village, Laha VDC, in Dolpa on 19 July. At least seven houses, including a police post, were swept away and 22 inundated by floods the same day.

**Response:** UNICEF provided 100 sets PYUSH (water purifying liquid), 1000 sachets of ORS, 144 soaps as well as leaflets and IEC per helicopter to the affected area. On 21 July, CDO went to the side by helicopter and distributed relief items of 16 NFI kits, food items, clothes and tarpaulin provided by NRCS.

## **Education**

Several Education Cluster partners participated in the humanitarian action workshop organized by Inter Cluster mission during 21-26 July.

UNESCO is currently mapping agencies and organizations in Nepal with specific mandates and significant activities in the field of disaster risk reduction (DRR) / management and overlapping areas of work, related to the formal and non-formal education sector.

Ministry of Education (MoE) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) organized the National Workshop on School Earthquake Safety on 16 July. DoE and National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) presented the status and the need for DRR in school and SC, UNESCO, UNDP and NSET presented their School Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Program in Nepal. Current status of schools in Nepal and their vulnerability to earthquake was also discussed.

The 2010 English version of the Handbook the Inter Agency Network for Education in Emergency (IANEE) Minimum Standards for Education: Preparedness, Response, Recovery was launched internationally in June and July by the IANEE. National launches are expected in the upcoming months.

World Vision Inter National (WVIN) launched the 1st 2004 edition of INEE Minimum standards for Education in Emergency, Chronic Crisis and Early Reconstruction (Nepali version) on 9 July.

Over a dozen schools in Dadeldhura district are conducting classes under the open sky after a storm blew away the roofs of the classrooms around the beginning of July. Similarly, another storm blew away the roofs of classrooms of a secondary school in Jumla two to three weeks ago compelling the school to conduct classes under the open sky. In yet another incident, a landslide triggered by incessant rainfall swept away the school building in Duli VDC of Rukum on 8 July.

## **Food Security**

An estimated 62,100 in the northern belt (Bichaya, Ruhin, Jagannath, Jukot, Wai, Sapata VDC), western belt (Dahakot, Manakot, Kada, Jayabageshwori, Attichaur VDC) and in southern belt (Kailashmandu VDC) in Bajura District in FWR are highly food insecure. Most household food stocks have been depleted. NFC and market stocks are also almost depleted due to the damage of transportation routes caused by monsoon rains. The impact of the food insecurity situation has over-stretched local coping mechanisms. Many residents in the food insecure VDCs eat only one meal a day.

## **Agriculture and Livestock**

Farmers of Sarlahi district, Central Region staged a sit-in in front of the District Administration Office (DAO) demanding fertilisers on 7 July. The farmers stated that the District Agriculture Inputs Corporation (DAIC) failed to provide the fertilisers even when the farming season has already begun. The lack of fertilisers would significantly reduce the production of sugarcane and paddy this year.

Farmers in Surkhet, Rukum and Kailali district in Far and Mid Western Region are facing an acute shortage of fertilizers and are compelled to use widely available sub-standard fertilizers smuggled from India. Farmers in Surkhet submitted a memorandum to the District Administration Office, on 8 July demanding the supply of sufficient fertilizers for paddy crops. According to Agriculture Inputs Company (AIC), there is no alternative than to wait for fresh supplies from India and other countries.



Photo 2 : Maize at harvesting stage, Amale, Sindhuli, July 2010, FAO

FAO project has mainly focused on monitoring, follow up and technical support activities during the month of July 2010. The field reporting and monitoring reports show that the performance of FAO distributed seeds such as maize, paddy and vegetable is doing well at farmers' field. The germination and growth of vegetable and maize is satisfactory whilst paddy plantation is completed in most of the districts.

A monitoring mission comprising of Joint Secretary of MOAC, Regional director of Agriculture, Biratnagar and District Agriculture Development Officers has visited Sindhuli and Udayapur district and provided feedback that the overall performance is satisfactory and field activities are going according to plan.

Training/technical support has been provided to 5 833 farmers of ten districts during the month of July 2010. The trainings were provided in various need based topics like compost making, nursery management, plant protection measures of different vegetable crops, rice and maize. Similarly, 18 Farmers Field School have been established in the month of July 2010 in System of Rice Intensification (SRI) and different vegetables.

Due to lack of water farmers could only make 50% of rice plantation until second week of July in Kailali; but the heavy rain fall (375mm within 72 hours) caused flood a week after. This flood has caused land cutting and siltation along the river side whilst on other hand this has helped farmers in transplanting rice in upland area, which resulted in 80 % of rice planting completion at end of July. At the same time, around 600 hectares of maize in Shinduli are now almost at harvesting stage. Even farmers in Amale VDC ward no. 4 expected almost double increase in production of maize.

## **Health**

Erratic weather in the eastern Tarai region has led to the spread of viral fever, more than 50 patients a day visiting the Koshi Zonal Hospital in Biratnagar and other private hospital/clinics as confirmed by World Health Organization (WHO). The constant variance in temperatures from hot and dry to wet have increased the incidence of the disease. The increased number of viral fever patients was reported by the private hospitals and clinics in Biratnagar. Two weeks ago, the inmates of Biratnagar prison had an outbreak of the viral influenza with over 300 prisoners affected out of 413 inmates. Similarly, nearly 67 inmates out of 144 in Rajbiraj, Saptari prison have suffered viral fever en masse since 26 July. Health workers from the District Health Office, Saptari, and Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital, Rajbiraj have been deployed to the prison to administer treatment.

WHO in Biratnagar, confirmed that four new polio cases have been found in Rautahat District in Central Region in the last month. In response, the Ministry of Health (MoH) conducted a first round of immunization on 14 and 15 July in eight surrounding Districts namely Rautahat, Bara, Parsa, Dhanusha, Saptari, Siraha, Sarlahi and Mahottari. The second round will be conducted on the 31 July and 1 August. All the rest of the Tarai districts will be covered on the 14 and 15 August. Morang District immunised 139,000 children in its round in June 2010.

## **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

During the WASH cluster meeting on 29 July, cluster members indicated that district level WASH ToT has been completed in 20 targeted districts and VDC level training for local volunteers and hygiene campaign has just started with the aim to increase awareness and positive behavior change in targeted VDCs of these districts.

With support from Department off Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS), installation of 5000 latrine has been completed in Rukum and Jajarkot districts along with hygiene promotion campaign.

Hand washing and Point of Use (PoU), training was organized in Rukum with support from DWSS and UNICEF. Similarly, two-day emergency WASH training was organized by DWSS and UNICEF jointly for government and NRCS officials from six far western districts. A first draft of District Contingency Plan (DCP) has been prepared by Oxfam in Rautahat and second round of discussion is in progress; Hygiene campaign and installation of WASH facilities in six districts is ongoing.

WASH cluster members (IRD, Save the Children, UNICEF and NRCS) have been supporting government authorities in controlling diarrhoea/cholera outbreak in four mid and far west districts through an intensive WASH preventive campaign.

WASH cluster with leadership from DWSS in Dadeldhura has developed a common consensus for promoting hygiene in all 20 VDCs and one municipality adopting a common approach of implementation. Hygiene training including promotional campaign is underway in all VDCs and wards of municipality.

Despite of high demand, WASH partners have not been able to procure the required quantity of ORS due to shortage of supplies in the local, regional and central market.

Locals in Dharan, Sunsari District, have been suffering from various diseases like typhoid and diarrhoea among others due to contaminated water as reported by media on 28 July citing a recent report made public by a monitoring team of Environment and Tourism Development Centre, Dharan. The report revealed that the Dharan Drinking Water Corporation was negligent about supplying clean water to consumers and the entire population of Dharan has been exposed to the threat of contracting water-borne diseases. The daily wage earners and people with low income have been hit the most due to contaminated water. According to BP Koirala Institute of Health Science, Dharan, diarrhoea, typhoid, fever and common cold patients were on the rise in recent days. Local clinics are also crowded with fever, typhoid and diarrhoea patients.

### **Nutrition**

Post vitamin A survey is ongoing in 11 districts by National Technical Assistance Group (NTAG). The survey report is expected to be completed by October. Supplementation of micro-nutrient powder in emergency setting has is ongoing in 17 food insecure districts through integration with food security programme.

Two nutrition cluster meeting held on 19 and 25 July. The meeting discussed on how to support and benefit from the inter cluster mission in Nepal. Integrated Management of Acute mal Nutrition/Standard Monitoring Assessment Relief and Transition (IMAM/SMART) training organized from 5-10 July 2010.

### **Protection**

As reported on 26 July, according to a recent survey conducted by the District Child Welfare Committee in Ilam district, Eastern Region, 32 child labours are working without remuneration among 58 child labours in Ilam district headquarters. Only 26 children below 16 years have got remuneration for their work. Others are working only for food and accommodation and have been exploited by the employers. Among the children below 16 years, 13 work at hotels, 29 as domestic attendants, 4 as vehicles labours and 12 are involved in irregular jobs.

According to the media, the first national conference of the Badi women was held in Ghorahi, Dang, on 24 to 26 July. 120 Badi women from 16 districts of the country participated in the conference. Under the slogan "Badi women's needs dignified and systematic rehabilitation", a declaration was adopted in which it women demand to incorporate the issues of Badi women in the new constitution, to give the National Dalit Commission status of a constitutional commission, the formation of the Badi Development Council and the implementation of the government declaration to end sexual exploitation.

### **Refugee (Multi Sector)**

Individuals claiming to be Bhutanese refugees in the refugee camps of Jhapa and Morang districts in Eastern Region have started a relay hunger strike from 26 July demanding food relief. They supposedly missed food relief after missing the verification process and distribution of ration cards. According to United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the protest programmes have been observed peaceful without disrupting any camp activities. The Camp authorities have been monitoring the activities without any intervention so far. About 175 people from four camps participated in the strike. The agencies involved in the refugee programs are constantly co-ordinating with the Government authorities to resolve any problems.

### **Shelter**

International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), Ministry of Physical Planning and Works hosted the Shelter Cluster meeting held on 14 and on 29 July respectively. The Federation shared a second draft of the shelter cluster emergency response timeline for inclusion in the shelter section of the IASC Contingency Plan. The Federation highlighted the key points of the timeline for better understanding of participant on 14 July. It was also clarified that the timeline was intended to cover larger and smaller scale disasters, as required for the IASC Contingency Plan.

As there is no major disaster requiring shelter activities support, the shelter cluster is more engaged in preparedness, to identify lessons learned and ensure that systems were in place for a next emergency. In 2009 the shelter cluster updated the shelter Contingency Plan and also established specifications for non-food item kits, shelter tool kits and an emergency shelter model. Unlike some other clusters in Nepal, the shelter cluster has benefited from good participation from DUDBC throughout its activities as the government focal agency.

Monthly meetings are currently being hosted by IFRC, however it was noted that alternative hosting arrangements and strengthening the links with the DUDBC should be sought as well. IFRC has updated the shelter mailing list to facilitate the exchange of information between shelter agencies, and DUDBC has established a new email address for this purpose which goes to key staff within the department sector as well. It has been agreed in the meeting that DUDBC will consider ways in which the shelter cluster can



provide the right kind of technical / coordination support for government shelter activities during non-emergency times. A small technical working group led by DUDBC involving technical experts from selected agencies would be convened in the coming weeks to discuss appropriate specifications and models for shelter. The meeting also agreed that future shelter cluster meetings would be hosted by the DUDBC.

### ***Koshi Recovery Updates***

According to UNHABITAT, the recovery activities are ongoing, with the support from Lumanti, for the Koshi flood project. Despite a number of challenges, a total of 104 shelters is completed by 15 July 2010 and 235 shelter constructions are scheduled for completion by the end of November 2010. One of the key achievements of the programme was the good cooperation among many partners and the fact that the community was empowered to take ownership of many of the activities.

### **Disaster Preparedness meeting and workshops**

#### ***District Disaster Preparedness Activities***

The District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) IN 20 districts completed the Disaster Preparedness workshops and produced the Preparedness Plan in 20 districts of Eastern Region (ER) and Central Terai (CT). The nominated District Lead Support Agencies (DLSAs) supported the DP activities in ER and CT districts. United Nations Field Coordination Office (UNFCO) Biratnagar coordinated and followed up the DP activities as appropriate.

In order to mainstream disaster risk reduction into village development planning, a two days orientation programme was conducted in Nepalgunj, Banke District on 15-16 July with technical and financial support of Action Aid and BEE-group. All VDC secretaries of Banke district participated in the meeting.

Action Aid Nepal facilitated the local partners and community to prepare ten Community level flood emergency plan/contingency plans in Narshingh & Babiya VDCs of Sunsari district and Gangapur & Matehiya VDCs of Banke district. The plans were prepared to effectively and efficiently respond the potential emergency situation. The project has already formed and trained five different community level task forces: Information, Search and Rescue, Food & water, health and sanitation, and Shelter & NFI to respond the disaster situation prior to the critical duration- at least for first 72 hours by their own.

#### ***Regional Disaster Preparedness Workshop***

With the technical and financial support from UN OCHA and Action Aid Nepal, the Regional Disaster Relief Committee (RDRC) of Eastern Region organized a regional level workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness planning in Biratnagar with the representation from all districts of Eastern region on 14 and 15 July 2010. Participants of the workshop were from District and Regional Government authorities, Security Forces (Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force), Nepal Red Cross, UN Agencies and I/NGOs including Senior Government Officials from Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), Ministry of Local Development (MOLD) National Planning Commission (NPC) and UNOCHA as resource persons. The outcomes of the workshop were to draft regional Standing Operating Procedures (SOP) on disaster preparedness and agreement to mainstream DRR in development projects.

## **COORDINATION**

Nepal Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) hosted a week long Inter-Cluster Support Mission to Nepal from 20 to 26 July. The Inter-Cluster Support Mission aimed to: a) strengthen understanding among Cluster Lead Agencies, Cluster Coordinators, and Government of Nepal (GoN) partners regarding their respective roles and responsibilities to lead and guide coordinated emergency response, including global level tools and resources available to support them b) identify constraints, challenges, and gaps in this response capacity, and jointly with in-country partners develop an action plan in response to these gaps c) Engage in a strategic dialogue with the RC/HC and HCT as to the current and future role and functions of cluster coordination mechanisms in the Nepal transition context, and the potential capacity of the GoN to play an expanded role in such mechanisms

The mission held workshops and consultations with the HCT, GoN and partners at a national level, and conducted a field mission to Nepalgunj. During a debriefing with donors on 26 July, the Mission highlighted the remaining humanitarian agenda in Nepal, and the need to develop appropriate strategic planning and resource mobilization efforts to meet this agenda.

During the time, the mission facilitated workshop on "Strengthening Humanitarian Action" in Nepalgunj on 25 July as well. The Contact Group Meeting (CGM) at central level was organized on 7 July and at the regional level meeting CGM was organized by UN FCO.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

- 03 August, 2010: Central Terai Contact Group Meeting, 11:00am – 12:30 pm, Chandranigahapur, Rautahat
- 04 August, 2010: Contact Group Meeting, 10:30am – 12:00pm, UN Conference Room
- 10 August, 2010: UNITF Meeting, 12:00pm – 1:00 pm, WHO Conference Room
- 11 August, 2010: UNDAF TG- Sustainable Livelihood Meeting, 2:00pm – 3:00pm, UN Conference Room
- 12 August, 2010: Principle HCT Meeting, 11:30am – 1:00pm, UN Conference Room
- 12 August, 2010: UNDAF TG – Human Right, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Meeting, 12:00 – 1:00pm , UNDP Meeting Hall
- 13 August, 2010: HCT Operational Meeting, 10:30am – 12:00pm, OCHA Conference Room
- 20 August, 2010: Joint HCT Operational Meeting, 2:30pm – 4:00pm, MoHA Conference Room
- 27 August, 2010: HCT Operational Meeting, 10:30am – 12:00pm, OCHA Conference Room
- 31 August, 2010: Eastern Region Contact Group Meeting, 11:00am – 12:30pm, UNFCO Office, Biratnagar

For more details, please visit Meeting schedules at UN Nepal Information Platform (NIP).

<http://www.un.org.np/WebCalendar/month.php>

#### RECENT MAPS AVAILABLE

OCHA IMU produced a number of mapping products, some of which are listed below and also available on the Nepal Information Platform (NIP) (<http://www.un.org.np/>).

Nepal: Report of Security Incidents -01 – 31 July, 2010

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=718>

Nepal: Report of Bandhs/Blockades -01 – 31 July, 2010

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=719>

Nepal: Flood and Landslide affected areas (19 June – 22 July, 2010)

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=711>

Nepal: Report of Security Incidents -01 January – 30 June, 2010

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=705>

Nepal: Report of Bandhs/Blockades -01 January – 30 June, 2010

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=705>

Nepal: Operational Space- 01 January – 30 June, 2010

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=709>

#### RECENT REPORTS AVAILABLE

Some of the recent reports available on NIP are listed below.

Logistic Capacity in Nepal

[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=578](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=578)

The Sphere Project: 2010 Edition

[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=580](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=580)

Improving and Expanding Agricultural Lending in Nepal's Hills

[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=579](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=579)

United Nations Resident Coordinator's Annual Report 2009

[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=577](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=577)

*Disclaimer: The information in this report is consolidated from media, UN, NGO, and other humanitarian partners, subject to availability of data. Although OCHA aims to confirm reports independently, occasional factual inaccuracies can occur.*

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