



I. HIGHLIGHTS

- Fire outbreak in several districts across the country
- H5N1 avian influenza confirmed in Banke district
- United Nations Under Secretary General for Political Affairs visits Nepal
- OCHA provides Emergency Response Funds for Water and Sanitation projects in mid and far western districts
- Nepali Congress President and former Prime Minister passed away at the age of 86

II. CONTEXT

Nepali Congress (NC) President and former Prime Minister, Girija Prasad Koirala (GPK), passed away at the age of 86 in Kathmandu on 20 March of complications from a chronic pulmonary condition. Mr. Koirala was cremated with full state honours the following day at a ceremony attended by government officials, political leaders, and members of the international community, as well as tens of thousands of mourners. 21 March was declared a public holiday. India marked its appreciation of Mr. Koirala's position with a high-level presence at his funeral, led by Meira Kumar, Speaker of the Lower House of parliament, along with External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister, both of whom spoke of the reach of Mr. Koirala's statesmanship across South Asian politics.

The High Level Political Mechanism has met subsequent to the demise of GPK, who was its Coordinator. Leaders of the three parties represented therein have reiterated their commitment to completing the peace process and drafting the constitution by 28 May, but have not yet settled competing claims for leadership of the Mechanism or reached consensus on the formation of a State Restructuring Commission, which has been agreed in principle.

UN Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe visited Nepal from 10-12 March. During the visit he met the Prime Minister and other government officials, senior political leaders and diplomats, and also visited the Maoist army's (MaoA) main cantonment site-3 in Chitwan district. He delivered strong public and private messages on the dangers of the political deadlock and the need for the political parties to better utilize UNMIN, particularly in light of public expectations that exceed the restrictions of its monitoring mandate. He highlighted the obligations and responsibilities of all the parties to move the peace process forward. Substantial differences between party lines on the way forward were evident in his separate meetings with political parties including UCPN-M, UML, NC and Madheshi party leaders.

On 16 March, senior Nepal Army (NA) generals endorsed the requirements for integration and rehabilitation expressed by Chief of Army Staff Chhatra Man Singh Gurung to USG Pascoe and subsequently announced in a press release.

UN agencies have received 665 phone calls from discharged MaoA personnel. The discharge of all 4,008 disqualified personnel from the MaoA cantonments was completed on 23 March with the signing of a Declaration to this effect by Deputy Commander Chandra Prakash Khanal "Baldev" on behalf of the UCPN-M. All discharges – including those 1,614 minors and late recruits who were not present during the discharge process conducted in all seven main cantonment sites from 6 January to 8 February – are eligible for rehabilitation support being offered by the United Nations and the Government of Nepal.

The Constituent Assembly's Business Advisory Committee is reported to have informally discussed a possible extension of the CA term. Three of eleven thematic papers have been submitted to the Constitutional Committee (CC), which is tasked to prepare the first draft of the

constitution. CC Chair Nilamber Acharya has consulted with a dozen smaller parties on how to start drafting the statute despite not having received reports from all the thematic committees.

In an attempt to control the situation in the Terai, which remains volatile approximately seven months after the declared implementation of the Special Security Plan (SSP), the Eastern Regional Police Office launched a Civilian Security Fund (CSF) for the eastern region on 16 March. The CSF offers monetary incentives for information leading to capture of illegal arms and weapons.

Safety and Security

On 18 March, at least 33 people were killed and 11 injured in a traffic accident along the Karnali highway in Dailekh district. Local people and the police were involved in the rescue and relief efforts.

A bomb exploded at the entrance of the Sitagunj health post in Sunsari district on 9 March, injuring six children who were playing in a nearby area. Police recovered leaflets with the name of Janatantrik Tarai Mukti Morcha (JTMM) from the site. In response to the incident, health workers closed the health post due to the lack of security and a safe working environment.

According to a local media report, 35 people attacked the Jalpa police post in Khotang district on 6 March and manhandled the police personnel. Five persons have been arrested in relation with the assault.

A clash reportedly ensued between the Armed Police Force (APF) deployed in patrolling the Birgunj Customs Office and a group of vendors accused of smuggling goods on 13 March, when the latter demonstrated in front of the customs office to demand the return of goods seized by the police two days earlier. The APF team had impounded goods worth NPR 4 million (US\$54,348).

At least 35 protesters were injured in separate clashes with the police on 22 March in Janakpur, Dhanusa district, during protests by the fifteen political parties and locals against the alleged rape on an Indian woman by a sub-inspector of police on 19 March. The protestors called a general strike demanding action against the perpetrator, suspension of the Superintendent of Police (SP), and resignation of the Home Minister. Janakpur remained tense until 23 March.

An APF team arrested four cadres of KJWP on charges of stealing in Phidim VDC, Panchthar district, on 24 March. The police confiscated the party documents. KJWP's Limbuwan State Committee Division chief threatened to call a strike in the district unless they were released.

Protests

Madheshi Janaadhikar Forum (MJF) launched the second phase of its protest program against the government's failure to implement prior agreements. The protest included rallies from 18-22 March and a Terai *Bandh* from 8-9 April. In the Eastern Terai districts, MJF carried out peaceful rallies in District headquarters on 21 and 22 March.

Bhisma Ekta Parishad, a pro Hindu organization, called a two-day *bandh* on 22 and 23 March in the FWR/MWR demanding Nepal to be declared a Hindu state. The *bandh* was observed throughout the FWR with violent incidents in places such as Dadeldhura and Kailali. Four vehicles were torched in Kailali, and a jeep was set on fire in Bhatkanda, Dadeldhura. The protesters reportedly abducted the jeep driver after torching his jeep.

Eight different Tharu groups called a day long *bandh* in Terai districts on 14 March to demand multiple federal provinces in the Terai and the implementation of an agreement held with the government last year. Educational institutions, market places, factories and transportation remained closed in the Terai districts of ER and CT.

The Federal Limbuwan State Council (FLSC)-Palungwa affiliated Federal Student Union (FSU) called an indefinite closure of Higher Educational Institutions and campuses in nine districts of the ER starting on 16 March. They were reportedly demanding a proportionate representation system in the student union and the declaration of a student who was killed during the student union election in Jhapa last year as martyr. The FSU withdrew the *bandh* following the death of Former Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala on 20 March.

Operational Space

In a press meeting organized in Biratnagar on 9 March, the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Department for International Development (DFID) stated that their project activities in different sectors have been affected in 15 districts of the Terai in the Eastern and Central Regions due to the insecurity created by armed groups. The donor agencies have allocated at least NPR 50 million (US\$680,000) in annual budget per Terai district to support different projects, but the expenditure has been less than NPR 10 million (US\$130,000) due to the threat of underground armed groups, who killed two technicians working on donor funded projects in Sarlahi and Siraha districts.

Armed groups and certain political parties have recently stepped up their forceful donation drive in the Eastern Region. The Kirat Janabadi Workers' Party (KJWP), JTMM, UCPN-M and Matrika Yadav-led CPN-M have intensified their donation drive sending letters to the VDC secretaries in several eastern districts. The KJWP has demanded a NPR 300,000 (US\$4076) donation from each VDC. The KJWP chairman informed the media that the donation has been demanded from the all VDCs of 14 districts of the eastern region except Saptari and Siraha.

The Secretariat of the Basic Operating Guidelines (BOGs) is holding a series of orientation workshops in the upcoming months. The first two-day workshop on Operational Space issues was held on 25 & 26 March in Kathmandu. The objective of the workshop was to share challenges and ensure a uniform understanding about operational issues from the field to the national level. The workshop included sessions on security, risk management, and safe and effective development in conflict environments and monitoring operational space. Participants included representatives from Donors, UN agencies and I/NGOs.

III. HUMANITARIAN AND CLUSTER/SECTOR UPDATES

Accidental fire in Terai districts:

Strong winds combined with the dry season have led to an increase in accidental fires. According to the NRCS, from 7 February to 28 March eight districts were affected by fires across the country. A fire that broke out in the Narainapur VDC in Banke district on 16 March destroyed 79 houses. A ten-year-old boy died shortly after reaching an Indian hospital. Another child was injured and several livestock perished in the fire. In total, 427 people (including 221 males and 206 females; 46 children under the age of 5, 105 between 6 and 18 years of age, 5 pregnant women and 1 person with disability) were affected by the fire, having lost food stocks, clothes, identity cards and other personal belongings. Together with the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) Banke and the Area Police Office, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and Save the Children distributed 79 sets of Non-Food Relief Items (NFRI) and 79 packages of Ready-To-Eat (RTE) food the next day as immediate relief support. NRCS took the lead in coordinating the response.

Similarly, several incidences of fire have been reported in the ER during this period. According to NRCS, fires destroyed houses in different districts in the region. On 15 March, 17 Dalit families lost their houses to a fire in Barsain VDC, Saptari district. On 17 March, 14 houses were completely destroyed in Taplejung district. On 20 March, five houses were destroyed in Subhang VDC of Panchthar district. Six houses were destroyed in Haripur VDC, Sunsari district. Similarly, three houses were gutted in Dainiya VDC of Morang district and about five houses were damaged in Saptari district. The DDRC and NRCS of the respective districts have supported the affected people with cash and non-food items.

Education

As a part of continuous collaboration with the government's Department of Education (DoE) and the members of the Education Cluster, Terms of References for the DEO's education focal people have been developed, and the DoE is planning to organize a capacity building training of the most vulnerable 20 districts as described in the February Nepal Monthly Situation Update. Technical support will be provided by Save the Children and UNICEF, and the DoE will manage logistics. Similarly, a training package has been approved by the Global Education Cluster for Education Front Line Responders during emergency. The Asia Pacific Shared Service Center (APSSC),

UNICEF has offered to provide this training to Nepali stakeholders in collaboration with the National Education Cluster. The training is proposed to be held the first week of May 2010.

Education in Emergency has been included in the Governance and Accountability Action Plan (GAAP) of the School Sector Reform Plan (SSRP) to ensure continued access to education for all children in the face of emergencies, crisis and conflict situations. However, this also needs to be included in the Annual Strategic Implementation Plan (ASIP) of the DoE and needs to be reflected into the District AWPBs to ensure preparedness and response activities takes at all levels.

Food Security

In February, WFP cash/food for assets (C/FFA) supported small-scale infrastructure-building conducted by 53,900 participants who, in turn, received 385 metric tons (MT) of food and US\$ 230,255. Households benefiting from C/FFA programmes, aimed at improving food security through enhanced accessibility, numbered 9,625. In conjunction with C/FFA programmes WFP has, since April 2009, provided 4.6 million sachets containing 1 gram of Micronutrient Powder (MNP) to 51,000 children ages 6 to 59 months across 15 districts in Nepal. The micronutrient powder supplementation intervention is aimed at reducing micronutrient deficiencies and malnutrition among young children. The malnutrition situation in Nepal is severe. Half of Nepal's children under 5 years are stunted or chronically undernourished. For the same population, global acute malnutrition rates are at 13 percent, according to the Department of Health Services.

Current estimates identify 3.5 million food insecure people living in Nepal. The country has entered a lean food season. Droughts experienced in 2008/2009, along with delayed monsoon and minimally productive summer crops have resulted in what is thought to be a 400,000 MT cereal deficit. Year-on-year food price inflation remains above 18 percent. Poor crop cultivation in India and Central Asia is anticipated to increase food prices in Nepal during the first quarter of 2010. WFP continues to monitor market trends and changes in food prices and availability across Nepal. Food security and its relationship to food price increases are of serious concern and require vigilant monitoring by the government and the international community.

Several districts are anticipated to have emerging and continuous food insecurity in the coming months. Because irrigation facilities are lacking, in many districts of the eastern Terai districts (i.e. Siraha, Saptari and Sunsari) insufficient irrigation facilities, low rainfall and high sand deposits are negatively impacting food security in 53 VDCs. Limited winter rains are also affecting Bhojpur and Sankhuwasabha in the eastern Hill region causing food insecurity.

It is projected that insufficient rain fall coupled with the strong winds, presently experienced, will decrease wheat and lentil production in the Terai. Food secure Terai districts include Jhapa, Morang and Dhanusha.

Price hikes for rice in the coming months are expected as reduced paddy production in Jumla, Mugu, Humla and Dailekh takes its toll on the market. Because of erratic and insufficient winter rainfall, the wheat and barley harvest is bleak posing an increased risk food insecurity beginning in April. Food insecurity is likely to become particularly critical from June onwards as the region moves into its traditional lean season.

According to the Nepal Food Corporation (NFC) zonal office in Biratnagar, 10,500 MT of rice, mustard oil and pulses are kept in Eastern region stocks. These will be supplied to all districts as required and sold to the public at a reasonable price fixed by NFC. NFC also has a stock of rice in Itahari of Sunsari district. NFC highlighted that they have 2,400 MT of rice in Surkhet for the region although the media reported that the rice quota for the Karnali region ended four months ago. In five mid western hill districts, food stocks range from around 1,000 MT in Jumla to 1,200 MT in Mugu. The main concern raised by NFC, however, is the lack of funds to transport the food stores to the mountain districts for them to have in case of shortages. They have received NPR200 million for transportation, but reportedly require around 300 million more.

Agriculture and Livestock

District level inception workshops under the European Union Food Facility (EUFF) project have taken place in seven out of ten project districts in order to share the project's concepts, strategies

and activities among different stakeholders, including the government. VDC level inception workshops are currently on-going in the above districts to increase the awareness of local stakeholders as well as to finalize the verification of beneficiaries.

A total of 13,063 MT of fourteen varieties of vegetables seeds have been delivered to all ten project districts in order to support 103,111 households. An additional 266,526 MT maize seeds have been delivered to eight districts. The seed distribution has started in Udayapur and Sindhuli districts already. In the remaining districts, distribution will be completed by the second week of April.

During the second week of March, an FAO monitoring mission visited Jumla district to investigate the possibility of supporting landless households with livestock, shed materials and required veterinary support. The provision of winter cereal seeds was also discussed with the local District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) and Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) staff.



Photo 1 : FAO Staff inspecting maize seeds prior to their distribution to beneficiaries in Doti district, [Photo: FAO]

Likewise, a Training of Trainers (ToT) organized by FAO staff for DADO technicians from Dolpa have been successfully completed in Kailali on 23 and 25 March 2010.

Oxfam-Nepal has organized a two-day inter-district field visit to assess the agriculture crops and cropping system. The purpose of the visit was to assess the present cropping mechanism and crop composition in agricultural lands that are prone to disasters and make recommendations on flood or drought resistant agriculture system and crops. The field visit was organized in Saptari and neighboring areas.

On 17 March, farmers from five eastern Terai districts lobbied the government to provide compensation for poor maize crop yields. According to media reports, the Chairman of the Central Struggle Committee for Farmers' Rights and Welfare claimed that there has been a loss of around NPR 8 billion (equivalent of US\$109.8 million) after 41,000 hectares of maize crop yielded nothing. Equally, the farmers blamed the government for not checking the quality of seeds properly while importing them from hybrid seed companies in India. In a similar development, the DADO of Bara mobilized a technical team comprising of agriculture specialists, concerned Village Development Committee (VDC) secretaries and local representatives to assess the damage. Meanwhile, agitating farmers put off their protest programme after the Minister for Agriculture assured them of compensation from the central government.

H5N1 Avian Influenza Updates

An outbreak of H5N1 avian flu was confirmed in Banke district, following which the District Livestock Services Office (DLSO) initiated culling of chickens in Binauna and Kohalpur Village Development Committee (VDC) – declared as H5N1 outbreak areas - on 24 March 2010. The DLSO destroyed 945 birds, providing NPR 50 per chicken as compensation. The DLSO close surveillance will last for 45 days. The Animal Quarantine Office has mobilized monitoring teams along with the Police and the Armed Police Force to curb any illegal importation of chickens.

The DLSO has formed a Rapid Response Team and is also providing technical support to Bardiya National Park for the surveillance of the birds in the national park. Nepal had its first confirmed outbreak of avian flu on 9 January 2009, followed by the second outbreak on 20 February 2009 in Jhapa district in the ER. The third case was recorded in Kaski District. The Ministry for Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC) held a press meeting in Kathmandu on 3 February, at which it declared the positive reports of H5N1 virus sent by London's Weybridge laboratory of all six samples tested from a local poultry farm in Kaski.

Health

The Regional Directorate of Health, Eastern Region has confirmed that the monitoring from the Health Centres has improved including reporting from Primary Health Centre/ out Reach Clinics and Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) in the last three years. However, late and inconsistent reporting is still a major challenge within the government system. On the other hand, reporting from Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI) clinics and I/NGOs has decreased.

The incidence of diarrhea in the under five population in the eastern region has increased in the last three years from 241 cases per 1,000 in 2007/08 to 550 cases per 1,000 in 2008/09, according to a three yearly (2007-2009) regional health status report 2010 produced by the Regional Directorate of Health, Eastern Region. The districts with the highest number of individual cases are Saptari (746), Sunsari (722) and Siraha (690), while Khotang (397), Udayapur (323) and Ilam (293) had the lowest number of individual cases last year. WHO Biratnagar attributes the difference to factors such as the greater population size in the Terai, the climatic difference between the hilly areas and the Terai, the greater percentage of indigenous groups in the Terai, and a lack of good hygiene practices and sanitation in general.

During the reporting period, the number of diarrhoea cases has increased in the District Hospital from five VDCs of Jajarkot district. In 2009, acute watery diarrhoea claimed the lives of the 300 people in MWR/FWR including Jajarkot.

According to the District Health Officer (DHO) of Bajura, thirty percent of children in the district have not received their regular vaccines. The main reasons for this are: lack of health workers; a shortage of vaccines; and the distance people have to go to reach vaccination centers. Many of the health staff members are on long leave or further study, and although the DHO has written a letter to the Regional Health Directorate Office, the Ministry of Health and political party leaders about the issues, to date he has received no response.

KinderBerg International (KBI) organized a mobile screening camp in Tistung Health Post of Makwanpur district. 200 patients were checked and recorded for surgery from 5 to 6 March. Similarly, from 22 to 28 March, a KBI medical team conducted a Mobile Surgical Camp in plastic, reconstructive and orthopedic surgery in Dhangadhi Regional Hospital of Kailali district. 200 patients received consultations, of which 42 cases were selected for immediate surgery. In addition, a KBI medical team gave training to the hospital staff on post-operative care and gave case by case counseling to the families. In addition, KBI medical team performed 32 surgeries in Nepal Orthopedic Hospital. Dressing and follow-up of patients was done on daily basis with KBI covering all expenses (equipment, material). KBI surgeons also offered their expertise to the Nepal Medical College for severe trauma cases and post-burn contracture cases.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

According to local media, Taplejung and Panchthar district headquarters have a scarcity of drinking water due to winter drought. Similarly, an acute shortage of drinking water is reported in Ilam district headquarters due to leaks in some of the distribution pipelines. According to the Drinking Water Supply Corporation, there is a shortage of 20,000,000 liters water daily in Biratnagar municipality due to electric power cuts. The media cited a study carried out by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which found low water quality in Dharan, containing harmful germs of bacteria according to the WHO standard.

Four VDCs in Jumla districts have been declared "open defecation free zones". As part of a four-year project that will end this year, the Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center (KIRDARC) has supported WASH activities in the district including the installment of the drinking water taps, and the free distribution of the toilet construction materials. Previously, there were no toilets in most of the VDCs, and the declaration was made when toilet construction began.

Two WASH projects submitted by International Relief and Development (IRD) and Development Project Service Center (DEPROSC) Nepal have been funded through the OCHA Emergency Response Fund. Projects were selected in the Mid and Far Western Regions of Nepal taking into account the impact of the 2009 Diarrhoea Outbreak.

Nutrition

The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) convened a high level nutrition advocacy meeting with support from UNICEF on 4 March. Over 200 participants representing stakeholders from the health sector, line ministries, external development partners (EDP), donors and media participated in the meeting, which discussed roles of nutrition in development, and underlined the need to increase efforts towards improving nutritional status of young children and women if Nepal is to reach the Millennium Development Goals of reducing child and maternal mortality by 2015. At the same meeting the Nepal Nutrition Report card tracking progress on child and maternal nutrition as well as the UNICEF Global nutrition report were launched.

Concern Worldwide convened a meeting to share experiences and findings from the Community based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) pilot project in Bardiya district on 17 March. More than 60 participants drawn from various national and international organizations/institutions, Child Health Division (CHD-MOHP), UNICEF, WFP, OCHA, DFID and USAID were in attendance. The Bardiya CMAM project is part of a wider joint CMAM pilot initiative (MOHP, UNICEF, Concern Worldwide) in Nepal. Findings based on two evaluations suggest that: 1) CMAM services can be integrated into the routine health services provided by MOHP, 2) government health workers FCHVs have shown a high level of commitment to and ownership of the project, 3) evaluation of CMAM performance indicators (e.g. cure/death/default rates, length of stay, weight gain) against Sphere Standards showed that the project was effective in meeting these except for the defaulter rate.

CHD-MoHP organized a regional nutrition review meeting in Nepalgunj attended by DHO and Nutrition Focal Point from 15 districts. The meeting provided an opportunity to update districts on current and/or planned new nutrition initiatives as well as advocating for strengthening of implementation of ongoing initiatives. Districts requested support for strengthening their capacities to implement infant and young child feeding (IYCF) programmes in the region. Participants agreed to support this activity and a regional IYCF training workshop is planned for the region.

Protection

According to the media, minorities and marginalized groups' rights will be protected in the new constitution. The previous constitutions, including the one promulgated in 1990, had not specifically mentioned the rights of these communities. The report on minority and marginalized groups will be proposed in the Constituent Assembly for approval on 30 March. In a similar development, the National Inclusive Commission (NIC) formed on 13 December 2008 has outlined a need for a separate ministry to deal with various issues on the inclusion of marginalized communities in state organs and public offices.

Child Protection

With the technical and financial assistance from UNICEF, the Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) organized a workshop to initiate a complementary program to support a Child Protection Grant in five districts of the Karnali zone on 12 & 13 March. Participants included the Local Development Officer (LDO), DHO and KIRDARC staff. The programme also attempted to link the cash Child Protection Grant with a nutrition and birth registration program, as NPR 200 will be distributed to children under the age of five (maximum two children per family), which is expected to reduce malnutrition rate and increase the birth registration.

The Nepal Human Right Commission (NHRC) organized a planning workshop on child rights and shared the outcomes of a baseline survey conducted by the Commission to assess the situation of children and to prioritize children's issues on 28 and 29 March. Government officials, OHCHR, UNICEF and representatives from Save the Children provided the Commission with suggestions for both economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights to be prioritized in the Commission's work over the next four years.

HIV/AIDS

OCHA Nepal and UNAIDS are jointly working on translating the revised IASC Guidelines for HIV/AIDS interventions in emergency settings into Nepali. The plan is to disseminate the Nepali version to agencies/individuals working in disaster preparedness and response.

Shelter

The UNDP funded landless house resettlement project for the 2008 Koshi flood affected people is ongoing. In March, the DDRC endorsed the names of 209 landless families from Haripur and Sheerpur VDCs from Sunsari district. The expected completion date of project was revised to end June. Construction work has commenced, with 20 units expected for completion by the end of the first week in April. A further 84 units are expected to be completed by mid-May. An initial group of 86 Dalit families from Haripur were selected for the first phase of settlement. In total 104 families from Haripur VDC are expected to be resettled by May. The remaining 105 families from Shreepur will be resettled in the next phase (May-June). At a DDRC meeting in March, WSSDO agreed to provide WASH support for the first 86 families for resettlement. This includes individual latrine and shared clean water points. Funding is from the ADB Koshi recovery grant.

Disaster Preparedness

A National Level Disaster Preparedness and Pre-monsoon Planning Workshop will be held on 8 & 9 April 2010 in Kathmandu. The workshop will review the effectiveness of 2009 disaster preparedness and response activities and agreed upon a preparedness plan for 2010. The workshop is organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Disaster Preparedness Network (DP-Net) in collaboration with UN agencies, I/NGOs, Red Cross Movements, and private sectors. Cluster leads/Co-leads and the representatives will participate the two days long workshop.

Handicap International (HI) conducted three trainings on "mainstreaming disabilities into disaster risk reduction" with Disaster Management Committee (DMC) members at the VDC level in Banke on 18, 24 and 25 March. Participants learned about special needs of people with disabilities in emergency situations and how to better integrate them in disaster risk reduction activities. Between 20 and 25 DMC members from different VDCs in Banke participated in each workshop.

IV. COORDINATION

Contact Group Meetings (CGM) in Eastern Region (ER), Central Terai (CT) and MWR/FWR are being coordinated by OCHA on a monthly basis. The format of the MWR/FWR meetings was recently modified to allow clusters to give presentation on the main issues in their sectors. Regional level thematic meetings among government authorities, UN and I/NGOs have been coordinated by OCHA in ER and in the MWR. At the national level, OCHA is coordinating the Humanitarian Country Team HCT/IASC operational and HCT/ IASC principals meeting on a fortnightly and a monthly basis respectively, and CGMs on a monthly basis, on the first Wednesday of every month.

OCHA MWR has also initiated meetings with regional authorities in Surkhet to further strengthen disaster preparedness and its ability to coordinate regional response for emergencies. On 23 March, a meeting was held in Nepalgunj regarding Basic Operating Guidelines (BOGs). Ways of improving tracking methods and the establishment of a regional BOGs group were discussed.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ MEETINGS

- 8 April 2010 : Mid-West/Far West Contact Group Meeting, 3:00pm – 4:00pm, UNDP Hall, Nepalgunj
- 8-9 April 2010: National Disaster Preparedness Planning Workshop, Hotel Radisson
- 15 April 2010 : Shelter Cluster meeting, 03:00pm at NRCS Disaster Preparedness Conference Room
- 16 April 2010 : Operational HCT/IASC Meeting, 10:30am – 12:00pm, OCHA Conference Room
- 19 April 2010 : Central Terai Contact Group Meeting, 11:00am – 12:30pm, Bara District
- 22 April 2010 : HCT/IASC Principals Meeting, 10:30am – 12:00pm, OCHA Conference Room
- 30 April 2010 : Operational HCT/IASC Meeting, 10:30am – 12:00pm, OCHA Conference Room
- 5 May 2010 : Contact Group Meeting, 10:30am – 12:00 pm, UN Conference Room

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: Reports of Security Incidents – 1 January – 28 February, 2010

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=687>

Nepal: Reports of Bandhs/Strikes – 1 January – 28 February, 2010

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=688>

Nepal: Operational Space – 1 January – 28 February, 2010

<http://un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=690>

Nepal: Presence of Village Development Committee (VDC) Secretaries- Comparative Result of 2008 and 2009 Survey

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=685>

Nepal: Presence of Village Development Committee (VDC) Secretaries - September - December 2009

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=686>

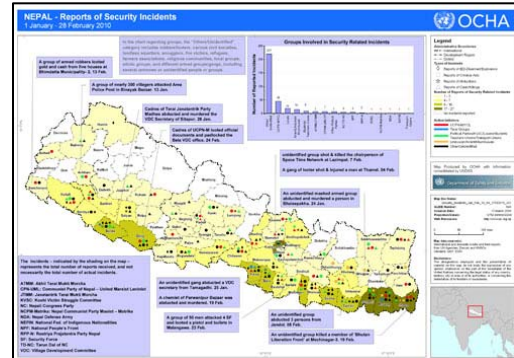


Photo 2: Map of Security Incidents
01 January – 28 February

RECENT REPORTS AVAILABLE:

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

Federalism and Constitutional Issues in Nepal: Perspectives from the Local Level

http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=567

Government of Nepal, Ministry of Home Affairs: National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management 2009 in Nepali Version http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=555

IASC Report: Guidelines for Addressing HIV in Humanitarian Settings

http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=566

UNESCO Report: Education under Attack 2010

http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=565

IDMC and NRC Report: Nepal Failed Implementation of IDP Policy Leaves many Unassisted

http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=564

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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