

# Flash Update Report

## Flash floods in Nepal

Country:	Nepal
Emergency type:	Climate Disaster (Monsoon rain and flash flood)
Start Date of Crisis:	28 September 2024
Date Issued:	04 October 2024
Covering Period:	28 September 2024 to 03 October 2024
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### Key Figures



**90,090**

Total people affected



**25,225**

Women of reproductive age



**1,287**

Estimated pregnant women



**26,512**

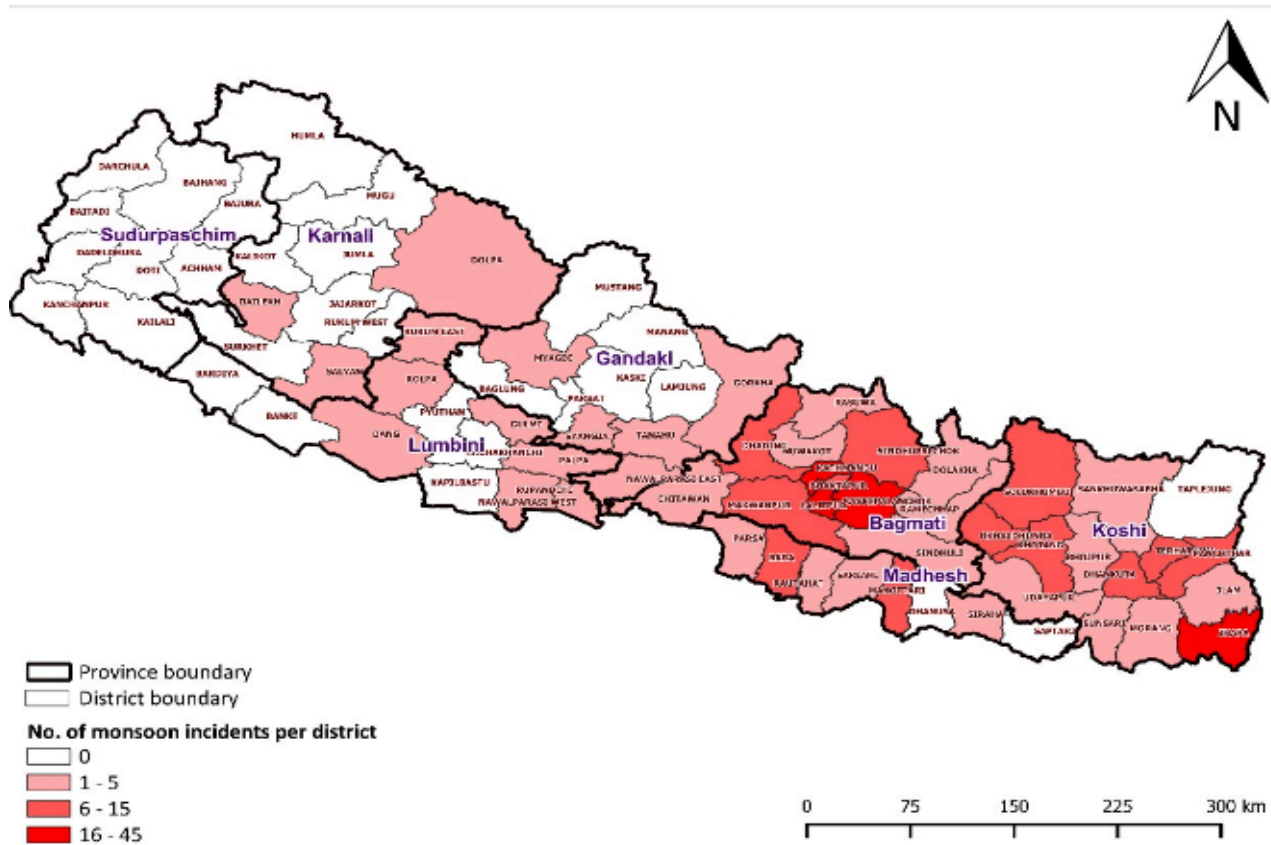
People targeted with Sexual and Reproductive Health services



**39,640**

People targeted with Gender Based Violence (GBV) programmes

## Highlights



Source: [www.bipadportal.gov.np](http://www.bipadportal.gov.np) (27-30 Sep 2024,

- Incessant rain has triggered landslides, flooding, and roadblocks, severely impacting transportation, daily activities, and safety across the country.
- The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM, GoN) reports that 101 out of 269 monitoring stations recorded rainfall exceeding alert levels.
- At least 148 people have lost their lives, while 59 are still missing in the flood and landslides. As many as 77 people have been injured, and more than 3,500 others have been taken to safe places, according to the update received from the National Disaster Risk Reduction And Management Authority (NDRRMA).
- The CERF-funded Anticipatory Action framework was activated in Sunsari (Koshi province) and Saptari (Madhesh Province) in the affected areas.
- Landslides in the eastern and central hilly regions have worsened the situation, resulting in significant casualties, infrastructure damage, and displacement of communities.
- 11 health facilities in Bagmati Province have been damaged, disrupting essential services.
- Receiving real-time data of all affected populations is difficult as data collection by the government is still underway especially in Kathmandu valley, which is highly affected by the flood.

## Situation Overview

- On September 25, DHM, GoN issued a weather advisory for a new spell of monsoon, influenced by the moisture-laden winds from the Bay of Bengal and the local weather system, to remain active between 26 and 29 September with the potential to cause heavy rainfall in most of the provinces, triggering flash floods, landslides and overflow of rivers. This forecast turned into reality with heavy rainfall in Bagmati and Gandaki provinces and moderately heavy rainfall in other provinces.
- River systems, including Narayani, Saptakoshi, and Bhotekoshi, surpassed danger levels. Koshi river levels have reached the danger mark, and all 56 gates of the Koshi barrage have been opened to mitigate further damage in Sunsari and Saptari districts. Bagmati river levels in the catchment area surpassed its holding capacity. After both gates were partially opened, water flow downstream has affected the districts in Madhesh Province.
- Two dams of Bagmati river and 1 dam of Lalbakaiya river had burst out, affecting Rautahat district in Madhesh Province as many parts of the district remain completely submerged. Gaur, Gujara, and Rajdevi municipalities are completely blocked by water and debris, halting transportation and delaying rescue operations. Gaur and Gujara municipalities face threat of further submersion.
- In the last 24 hours, Bagmati Province has reported 260 new dengue cases, with the highest concentration of infections [132] in Kathmandu. There are high chances of an epidemic due to water borne and infectious disease aftermath of flood and inundation.
  - Continuous rainfall has caused severe flooding and landslides. The delayed retreat of South Asia's monsoon rains resulted in swollen rivers, inundating roads and bridges. Transportation has been heavily impacted, with landslides blocking highways.
  - 69 district roads are reported as fully obstructed, and many landslides have also been reported. Among them, the main highways obstructed are Prithivi Highway, Tribhuvan, Mugling - Narayanghat Road, Mechi Highway, Kanti Highway, and BP Highway. All border highways entering Kathmandu Valley are obstructed.
- Reportedly, 44 districts across the country have been highly affected by the heavy rainfall which has caused landslides, floods, and inundation. Koshi, Bagmati, Gandaki, and Madhesh Provinces are most affected.







## UNFPA Response

UNFPA operates in **six provinces** (Koshi, Madhesh, Bagmati, Lumbini, Karnali, and Sudurpaschim) and has prepositioned humanitarian supplies in **five strategic locations**. The organization is coordinating with provincial offices in Madhesh, Lumbini, and Sudurpaschim to address the immediate needs of women and girls, particularly concerning sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) risks.

UNFPA has an approved **CERF Anticipatory Action** framework for the **Koshi river basin**, involving a USD **647,134** project focused on life-saving interventions, including SRH and GBV support, and for addressing young people's needs.

Based on the available data from Bagmati Province (Kavre), Koshi Province (Sunsari), and Madhesh Province (Rautahat and Saptari), of the **90,090** affected population, the MISP calculator estimates:

- **25,225** women of reproductive age
- **14,415** young adolescent girls
- **1,287** currently pregnant women
- **143** women are likely to give birth in the next one month
- **21** currently pregnant women are likely to experience obstetric complications in the next one month and need access to a functioning health center for safe delivery.

It is imperative to maintain uninterrupted life saving GBV prevention and response services, which are particularly vital during times of crisis when the risk of violence against women and girls tends to increase. Alongside this, the continuity of SRH services is essential, with a particular focus on the needs of pregnant and postpartum women, as well as newborns, to ensure their health and safety.

Furthermore, the distribution of dignity kits and kishori kits, which provide essential supplies for managing menstruation and personal hygiene, is necessary to preserve the dignity of women and adolescent girls during the emergency. These kits not only help address practical hygiene needs but also include key information on available SRH and GBV services, making them a key entry point for those who may be at risk of or experiencing GBV.

Equally important is the provision of mental health and psychosocial support for the affected populations. The psychological toll of disasters can be profound, and ensuring access to counseling and support services is crucial to help individuals and communities cope with trauma, grief, and the emotional strain caused by displacement and uncertainty. Together, these interventions form a comprehensive response aimed at addressing both the physical and emotional needs of those affected by the crisis.

## **Sexual and Reproductive Health**

### **Issue**

- There is a high risk of spread of waterborne and infectious disease in the aftermath of flood and inundation, which can affect maternal and neonatal health outcomes.
- Risk of increase in sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV without access to information and services.
- Disruption of family planning services at health centers.
- Maternal health services for pregnant women may be disrupted.

### **Response activities**

- Refresher/orientation of health service providers on MISIP and referral support.
- Orientation and mobilization of Female Community Health Volunteers to promote SRH and GBV services utilization.
- Dissemination of risk communication materials and information on SRH and GBV services.
- Support service continuity of affected health facilities.
- Distribution of clean delivery kits to pregnant women with limited access to a health facility.
- Support pregnant women to ensure access to emergency assistance through cash support.
- Support adolescent and young women with menstrual hygiene items and information

## **Gender-based violence**

### **Issue**

- There is an increased risk of domestic violence and other forms of GBV. Insecure temporary settlements and shortage of essential items also increases the risk of human trafficking.
- The immediate needs include support for dignity kits and cash for women to meet their specific needs, and dissemination of information on available services and referral mechanisms as part of GBV risk mitigation and response.
- The district level GBV referral pathways for Sunsari (Koshi Province), Saptari and Rautahat (Madhesh Province) districts have been updated and will be disseminated together with relief supplies in the flood affected areas with a brief orientation on its purpose, contents and its use.

### **Response activities**

- Provide dignity kits and/or cash support together with information on GBV response services.
- Establish Women Friendly Spaces (WFS) in affected areas.
- Orient and mobilize Community Psychosocial Workers (CPSW) after consulting with local authorities.
- Update the GBV referral pathways.

### **Challenges**

- Real-time data on affected populations continues to be an issue throughout all municipalities.

- Access to roads/ highways are blocked, making the affected municipalities difficult to reach.
- Access to the market is disrupted.

## **Adolescents and Youth**

### **Issue**

- The impact of flood and inundation may result in disrupted access to schools, resulting in an increase in school dropout for girls.
- Child marriage and unintended pregnancy are significant risks for adolescent girls. The risk of human trafficking is also high in a post-disaster setting.
- Menstrual hygiene management is an issue for adolescent girls who are displaced by the floods.
- The impact of flood and inundation will also increase mental health risks.
- Out of 90,090 people affected by flood and landslide 14,415 are adolescent girls.

### **Response activities**

- Provide immediate support to adolescent girls to ensure education continuity and reduce the risk of school drop out due to negative coping mechanisms. The adolescents will receive cash support to ensure the continuity of education which ultimately aims in decreasing the negative coping mechanisms like early marriage, drop out from school etc.
- Awareness raising through orientations on GBV, child marriage, and menstrual health and hygiene, to adolescent girls and boys.
- Provide psychosocial counseling to the adolescents affected by flood.

### **Coordination**

- UNFPA as a co-lead for Protection cluster and GBV sub-sector has initiated a protection cluster meeting (On 28 and 29 September), where mapping of agencies and response plan of GBV sub-sector has been updated.
- The reproductive health (RH) sub-cluster meetings took place at the federal level on 29 September. UNFPA co-leads the RH sub-cluster and has initiated the 5W mapping of member agencies and initiated overall coordination for the response.
- Additionally, both federal and provincial governments have directed government agencies in affected districts to provide immediate relief to affected populations and have made appeals to cluster partners and humanitarian organizations for swift response actions.
- As per the guidance from cluster lead Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen and Ministry of Health and Population (Family Welfare Division), UNFPA has been coordinating with humanitarian agencies to mobilize the stockpiled relief materials from their warehouse. Nepal Red Cross Society mobilized non-food items to affected households and mobilized their volunteers for relief distribution and carrying out initial rapid assessment.
- Additionally, UNFPA is coordinating closely with line ministries such as the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen, Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Home Affairs and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) at the federal level along with coordination with relevant ministries at the provincial and local level. UNFPA also has partners on ground who will be mobilized for response on protection, GBV and SRH.

## Funding Status

To meet the needs of flood affected women and girls, UNFPA will require USD 300,000 for provision of essential SRH and GBV services. The amount required may change based on additional information of the impacts of the floods from ongoing assessments.