

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Nepal: floods

Information bulletin n°1  
GLIDE no. [FL-2008-000104-NPL](#)  
26 August 2008

This bulletin is being issued for information only.  
[Click here to view the map of the affected area and here for detailed contact information](#)

### The Situation

More than 54,000 people living in the eastern belt of the Saptakoshi River have been displaced as the river changed its course through densely populated human settlements and damaging the embankment on 19 August 2008. The flood has hit Sunsari district where there are reports of eight village development committees (Kusaha, Laukahi, Ghuski, Sreepur, Haripur, Narshimha, Madhuban and Basantapur) being badly affected and some others are in danger as the river is still continuing to flow through the damaged embankment. The impact may expand to Morang district.



People displaced by the floods move towards safer areas in Sunsari district, Nepal.

Over 30,000 displaced persons have sought shelter in transit camps such as schools, campuses and public buildings in Sunsari and Saptari districts. Others have taken shelter with relatives. Around 20,000 people are still squatting in open air in the Saptari district. According to government sources, around 10,000 individuals have been displaced from adjoining areas in India and are taking shelter in Saptari district of Nepal.

The search, rescue, first aid and evacuation operation is under way by the Nepal Army, the police and the NRCS volunteers. On August 21<sup>st</sup>, the body of a woman was recovered in the Paschim Kusaha Village Development Committee. According to local media, more than 22 dead bodies are reported to be found in the vicinity of the Indian bordering villages. A situation assessment including Damage Assessment and Needs Assessment (DANA) is ongoing at the district level.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

More than 200 Nepalese Red Cross Society (NRCS) volunteers and trained staff have been mobilized for the Damage Assessment and Need Assessment as well as to provide first aid, food and non-food items distribution, registration of affected population and coordination at local level. NRCS/HQ is coordinating with all the district chapters to provide relief support for the flood affected people. As per the understanding made in the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) meeting dated 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, the NRCS has been requested to manage the monitoring and supervision of camps as well as the collection and distribution of the relief materials through the DDRC warehouse.

The NRCS NHQs, in coordination with its Siraha, Dhanusha and Saptari district chapters have provided dry food (beaten rice, noodles, biscuits etc.) to around 20,000 people living in shelter in Bhardah area in the Saptari district. In addition, five tube wells have been established for the supply of drinking water. The distribution of food and non-food items is ongoing. The NRCS gets the supply of non-food relief items from its central regional warehouses located in Biratnagar and Birgunj. The Emergency Operation centre at NRCS/HQ is working throughout the week. So far, the below quantities of relief materials have been distributed.

Relief Items	Quantity
Beaten rice	22,485 kg
Rice	17,050 kg
Puffed rice	6,034 kg
Salt	698 kg
Biscuits	408 cartons
Instant noodle	678 cartons
Snacks	100 packets
Daal	10,550 kg
Potatoes	1280 kg
Onions	450 kg
Gram	1050 kg
Flour for children	8 packets
Blankets	729 pcs
Cooking oil	245 liters
Tarpaulins	1272 pcs
Plastic buckets	709 pcs
Soap	4,792 pcs
Phenol	116 bottles
Plastic jugs	626 pcs
Mats	376 pcs
Male Dhoti	200 pcs
Kitchen Utensils	200 Sets

The most urgent emerging humanitarian needs are in the areas of shelter, drinking water and sanitation, health, regular food. Also, special food for children, pregnant women and elderly people are needed.

## Coordination mechanism

The NRCS as a part of the central disaster relief as well as district disaster relief committee is involved in coordination at all levels, in order to ensure effective response. The NRCS has been producing situation updates on a daily basis and has shared those with all the relevant organisations in-country. The DMIS has been updated regularly since the beginning in order to bring the Red Cross partners up to date with the developments.

The NRCS - along with UNOCHA, UNICEF, SCF (US), OXFAM, CARITAS, World Vision and many other humanitarian organizations and CBOs - has been cooperating with the Government. The Federation office in Nepal has been supporting the NRCS with international representation and policy decision making. The Federation representative is in continuous dialogue with the UN humanitarian coordinator. Additionally, the Federation representative in Nepal is ensuring the overall coordination of the Federation support and the support of the PNSs (Finnish, Danish and Belgian RC). The Federation office is currently monitoring the development of the situation.

## Constraints and Challenges

The assessment and relief distribution is being hampered by the turbulent water flow and water logging. Due to the frequent movement of affected population from camps it is difficult to carry out the detailed assessments and explore the total emergency needs. Additional constraints are mentioned below:

- The total number of affected people is still not clear.
- Communication systems are not working properly as the optical fibres are swept away by the flood.
- Road transportation is hampered as the main highway is impassable and alternative routes mean a considerable detour (through India).
- Secondary hazards, mainly health-related problems (infections, diarrhoea and pneumonia) are being recorded.
- Access to the villages is difficult due to security concerns in the South of Nepal.

## How we work

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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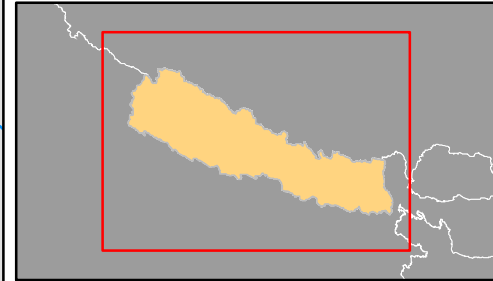
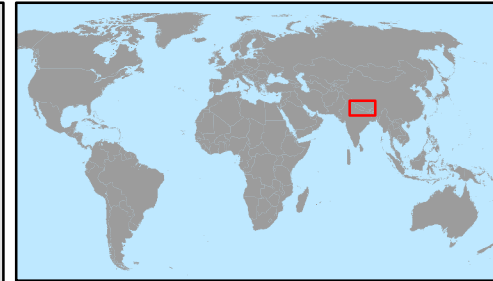
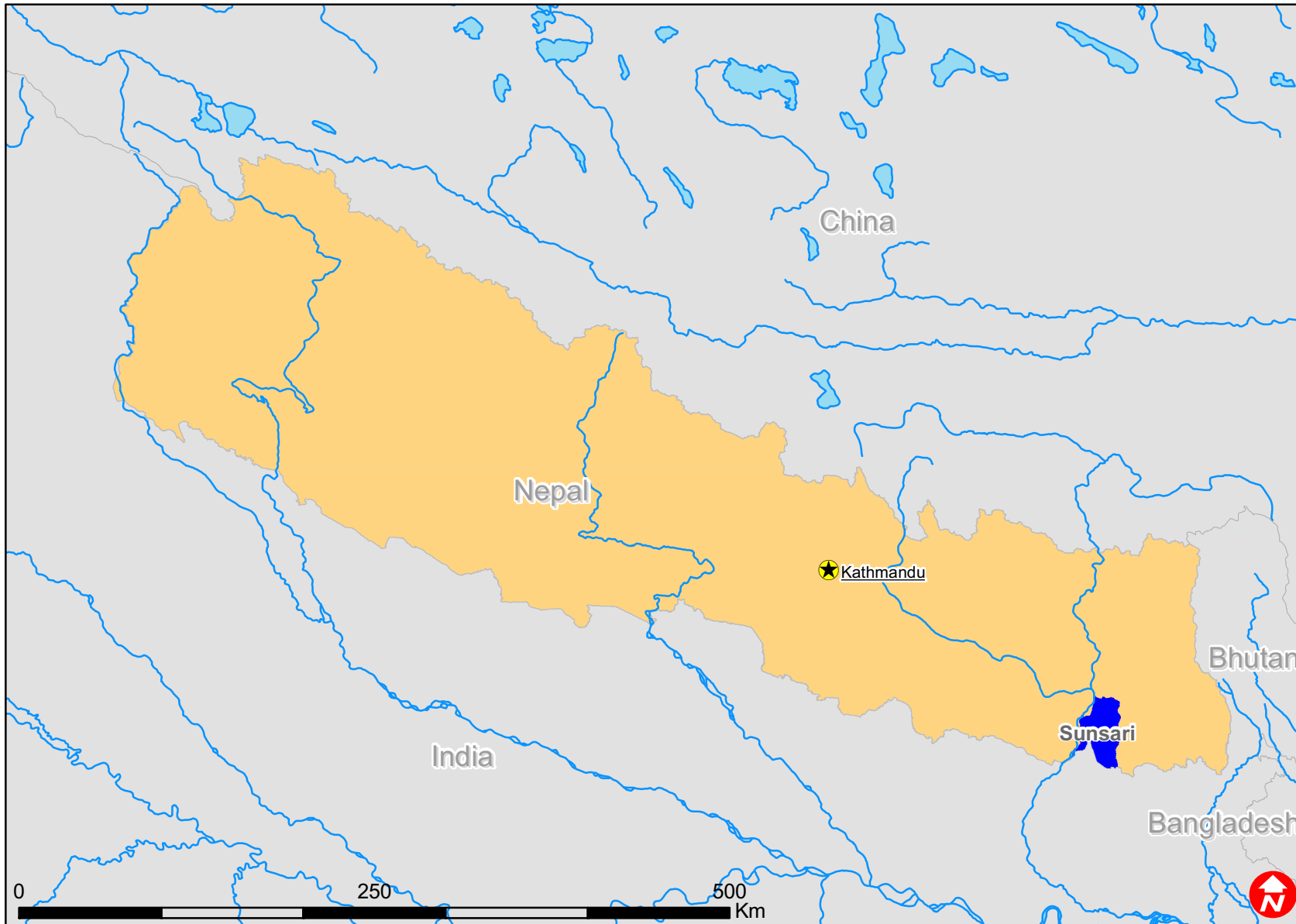
**[map below; click here to return to the title page](#)**



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Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

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 Affected district

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Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, International Federation