Healthcare continues in UNICEF medical tents set-up in Kathmandu Valley. ©UNICEF Nepal

Nepal Floods Humanitarian Situation Update # 3

unicef
for every child

Reporting period: 18 October 2024

Overview

Heavy rainfall has led to severe flooding and landslides in Nepal, directly affecting over 80,000 people, with many others indirectly impacted due to the destruction of health, water, sanitation and education facilities. UNICEF in collaboration with the Government of Nepal has provided lifesaving humanitarian supplies and services to more than 20,000 people. The safety and wellbeing of women and children, particularly those whose homes, health facilities, and schools have been severely damaged or destroyed, remain a major concern for UNICEF.

The rains, one of the heaviest Nepal has witnessed over the past decades, killed almost **250 people**, including **55 children (20 girls and 35 boys)**. Over 10,000 houses, 62 health facilities, 240 schools, 550 water supply systems and 9,000 sanitation facilities have been destroyed or damaged. Landslides and debris have obstructed major roads leading into the Katmandu Valley, disrupting access to essential goods and critical services, including healthcare. This has led to a rise in the prices of food and other necessities.

Situation in Numbers*:

81,215
people affected (estimated)

27,613
children affected (estimated)

246
people killed, including 55 children

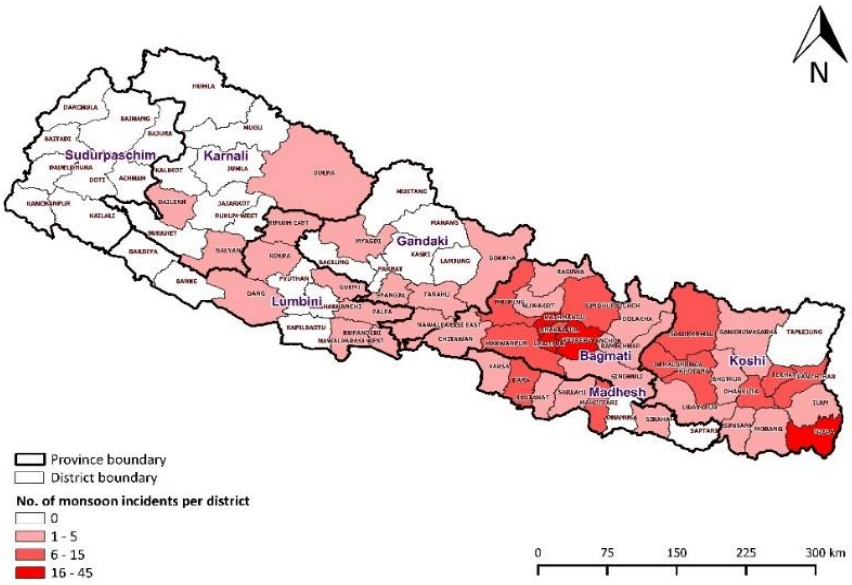
183
people injured

***Estimates by the Government of Nepal**

UNICEF response

UNICEF was among the first agencies to respond to the needs of the affected people, including children, women, and the most vulnerable groups. To date, UNICEF has provided families with lifesaving interventions and critical supplies promptly and effectively. Rapid assessments are being conducted to evaluate the full extent of the disaster's damage. Additionally, community engagement and social listening efforts are underway to ensure that the needs of the communities are being addressed.

Under the leadership of the government, UNICEF's response focuses on ensuring the protection of children and continuous access to essential social services. Specific focus is on providing access to health, nutrition, WASH and education services, along with fostering community engagement.



HEALTH

- With an estimated 62 health facilities – including tertiary level hospitals and several health posts – damaged, access to healthcare for children, women, and their families is of a serious concern. The floods have significantly increased the risk of water-borne and vector-borne disease outbreaks including cholera and dengue, and typhoid fever. Assessment of cold chain equipment is ongoing.
- **In response,** emergency supplies, including 1,000 bed nets to decrease the risk of dengue (and other vector-borne diseases) infection, have been dispatched to the affected areas to meet the needs of over 2,000 households. The Government of Nepal requested UNICEF to provide 10 medical tents each serving approximately 2,000 people in the catchment area. So far, one medical tent has been installed in Panauti Municipality, Kavre District in Kathmandu Valley, and four more are currently being distributed.

On 7 October Ishwor Resaili visits a temporary health centre set-up under a UNICEF-provided medical tent with her newborn daughter Yesna and her husband Dipendra at Panauti Municipality of Kavre District in Nepal.

WASH

- Initial reports indicate that floods and landslides have impacted 550 water supply systems and 9,000 sanitation facilities, disrupting the provision of safe water and sanitation in affected areas. With over half of the urban population relying on alternative water sources, such as tankers or wells, effective risk communication and community engagement are crucial to prevent possible disease outbreaks. Priorities include chlorination and disinfection of water supply and sanitation facilities, restoring essential water services, providing temporary sanitation facilities, and promoting hygiene practices to prevent disease outbreaks.
- **In response to the emergency,** pre-positioned supplies have been distributed to the affected areas. These include 5,131 sets of hygiene kits, buckets, and water purifiers. Additionally, 45 sacks of bleaching powder and 10 temporary toilets have been provided to the urban flood-affected areas. These supplies are sufficient to meet the needs of 6,311 families (36,191 people including 16,174 women and 11,153 children). UNICEF has also conducted hygiene promotion sessions using WASH in Emergency flip charts and food hygiene posters for the affected population. Their goal is to reach 82,000 people with safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, as well as to repair damaged WASH infrastructure.

On 3 October 2024, in Saptari District in Nepal's southern plains, community members affected by the recent flooding receive emergency supplies including tarpaulins, hygiene kits, water purifiers and buckets - through UNICEF support.

EDUCATION

- Over 243 schools have been reported as damaged by the floods, with 25 schools destroyed and 162 damaged. Current data shows that 31,876 school children are affected; however, this number is likely to be closer to 47,500 children due to delayed data collection in rural areas.
- In response, UNICEF is supporting the government at all levels with information management, assessments, and coordination. Prepositioned supplies, including education kits, are ready for distribution. UNICEF has also supported initial loss and damage assessments in Madhesh province.

NUTRITION

- Concerns over malnutrition have increased, particularly for vulnerable children under-five due to inadequate intake of healthy, diverse food, contamination of water sources and subsequent disease outbreaks, and disruption of essential health, nutrition, and other services. UNICEF's main concern is to ensure continuation of lifesaving nutrition services for affected children and their appropriate feeding and care. Out of 27,613 affected children, UNICEF will target about 10,000 children under-five years and about 3,000 pregnant/breastfeeding mothers in Madhesh province.
- **In response,** UNICEF as cluster co-lead, is supporting the Government of Nepal to screen 10,000 children under-five years of age for malnutrition in Madhesh province. Identified malnourished children will be provided with support through government programs. In addition, UNICEF is facilitating the provision of essential nutrition services such as micronutrient supplementation and breastfeeding and complementary feeding counselling to 3,000 pregnant/lactating mothers.

plains, UNICEF conducting a training for community-based psychosocial workers and volunteers to provide psychosocial and other emergency support for communities impacted by the recent floods and landslides.

CHILD PROTECTION

- The recent devastating floods have significantly impacted vulnerable groups, including women, children, adolescents, and persons with disabilities, heightening their risk of severe psychological stress and trauma. Many adolescent girls and boys in the affected districts have missed their exams, causing considerable anxiety about their academic futures. Additionally, the displacement and disruption of daily life have raised concerns about protection risks, such as gender-based violence, trafficking, and child labour. Displaced girls are particularly vulnerable, as they are forced to share common spaces and fear the possibility of facing sexual harassment.
- **In response,** UNICEF, in collaboration with partner organizations, provided psychosocial support to 5,487 affected individuals across Saptari, Rautahat, and Sindhuli districts. This support reached 1,012 girls, 925 boys, 2,258 women, 1,292 men, and 43 persons with disabilities.

On 8 October 2024, in Saptari District in Nepal's southern plains, UNICEF – in partnership with the Government and civil society organizations – distributes cash to flood-affected families under the Central Emergency Response Fund's (CERF) Anticipatory Action Plan.

SOCIAL PROTECTION/CASH+

- Many already vulnerable children and families have been significantly affected by the recent floods and landslides.
- **In response,** UNICEF and its partners, under the leadership of the Government of Nepal, have provided essential cash support to 782 families. This humanitarian CASH+ approach, involves distributing cash assistance through bank accounts, with specialized cash camps established for families without bank accounts. In addition to financial aid, UNICEF is also delivering essential WASH supplies, offering psychosocial support, and providing information on available services and lifesaving practices.

On 4 October 2024, in Kanchanrup Municipality, Saptari District, in Nepal's southern plains, UNICEF staff and community volunteers conduct awareness activities among flood-affected community members.

SBC+ (SBC, RCCE, AAP)

- The SBC+ humanitarian response has continued its efforts in social community listening, risk communication, community engagement and accountability to affected populations. These efforts address both the primary impacts and secondary issues, such as the increased risk of water- and vector-borne diseases and snakebites.
- **In response**, between September 30 and October 4, UNICEF's I-Hear-U social community listening platform analyzed over 18,000 online content items (news, posts, comments. Community voices expressed deep concerns about environmental damage and the heightened risk of disease outbreaks, as well as profound appreciation for both community and international support in the ongoing disaster response.
- Guidance on health and safety measures has reached 101,500 individuals trough megaphone announcements. Additionally, 28,841 communication packages containing information on staying safe and healthy during the crisis have been distributed. SBC trained-social mobilizers have guided 2,638 people on snakebite prevention, and over 50,000 people have been continuously reached through public service announcements broadcasted on local FM radio channels.

On 4 October 2024, in Kanchanrup Municipality, Saptari District, a tuk-tuk mobilized by UNICEF broadcasts life-saving information via megaphone and posters to flood-affected communities. This effort is part of a broader awareness campaign by UNICEF staff and community volunteers.

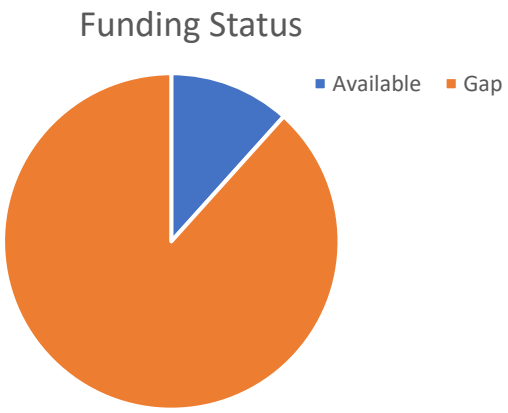
- UNICEF's U-Report platform engaged 740 youth (aged 15-35) with a digital poll about cholera and dengue transmission, detection, and prevention. The findings revealed that 83 per cent of the respondents demonstrated solid knowledge of dengue and cholera transmission, while 43 per cent showed limited awareness of symptoms and prevention. Additionally, 161 people sought information on disease prevention during the crisis through the Internet of Good Things, a data-light website optimized for low-end mobile devices and low-literacy users.
- Furthermore, 3,579 people, including 1,952 women, across flood-affected areas have shared their needs through UNICEF's real-time mobile-powered community feedback mechanism. This feedback revealed a strong willingness from communities to provide input and highlighted friends, social media, radio, and megaphones as their most trusted sources of information, among other key insights to inform and improve the response.

Funding needs

Emergency preparedness is essential and has enabled a swift response, ensuring the timely delivery of supplies to meet the urgent and immediate needs of the affected children and their families.

FUNDING GAP: USD 5 MILLION

An initial USD 5.6 million is needed to meet the humanitarian needs of around 30,000 children and their families. UNICEF's priority is continued access to healthcare, water & sanitation and protection services, while needs assessments will determine the longer-term needs for rehabilitation of health, WASH and education facilities.



Communication content on the flood situation and response can be found here: WeShare Package

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