

SITUATION REPORT

Monsoon Flooding in Nepal and India

August 21, 2017 | No. 2

BY THE NUMBERS

17.5 million

People affected in Nepal and India

414

People reported dead or missing in Nepal and India

Sources: Times of India, August 21, 2017, IFRC update, August 18, 2017

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Monsoon rains beginning on August 11, 2017 have caused deadly flooding in northern India and southern Nepal. The flood water has damaged roads, submerged railways and caused widespread power outages, cutting off access and contact to several communities. Houses, buildings and crops have been damaged or destroyed.

In Nepal, the Ministry of Home Affairs reports that the number of displaced people could be much higher as many villages have not yet been reached by search and rescue teams. Most flood waters have started to recede; however, officials are concerned about possible disease outbreaks because of stagnant water, crowded evacuation centers and inadequate sanitation systems.

Many affected areas in both Nepal and India are still without electricity or access to food and clean water, as roads have been severely damaged. The loss of crop harvests in both countries will likely present a major food security challenge in the coming months.

RESPONSE EFFORTS

In Nepal, the government issued a flood forecast bulletin on August 13 and circulated SMS messages to people living in vulnerable areas. The Nepali army, police force and Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) volunteers have been mobilized to evacuate families from high-risk and flood-affected areas. The government, in close coordination with local District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRC), has requested assistance from national and international non-governmental organizations. In India, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the army and air force have been mobilized in evacuation and response efforts for the affected areas. Local NGOs in both countries have also been active in rescue operations in collaboration with the military and other government agencies.

Humanitarian organizations are responding with cash assistance and distributions of water, food and other essential items.

CURRENT NEEDS

- Ready-to-eat food
- Non-food items (NFIs) including shelter repair kits
- Support for housing
- Livelihood support for families who lost their belongings

LWR – ACTIONS TAKEN AND NEXT STEPS

LWR staff have completed needs assessments in India and Nepal, and LWR has committed \$129,000 to support the immediate needs of families in both countries. LWR is using our Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans (EPRP) to guide the coordination of response efforts.

In Nepal, we are reaching 1,650 families with food packs in Bardiya and Nawalparasi Districts, where we have existing projects.

In India, we are reaching families with emergency shelter and essential non-food items in 19 villages throughout Bihar state, where we have existing projects.

We are continuing to communicate and coordinate with ACT Forum members and other humanitarian organizations to determine additional needs and how LWR can best assist to meet these needs.



Flood damage in Nepal. Photo courtesy Backward Society Education (BASE).

LWR IN THE COUNTRY

With nearly 75 years of demonstrated expertise helping to transform some of the hardest-to-reach places in the developing world, LWR is an innovative, trusted international nongovernmental organization committed to those otherwise cut off from basic human services and opportunities.

LWR helps communities living in extreme poverty adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being and we respond to emergencies with a long-term view. When a disaster hits — whether it's a drought, tsunami or civil war — we work alongside communities over months and years to help them recover and adjust to new realities, ensuring that they are prepared to withstand the next unexpected challenge. Regardless of whether these challenges are chronic or acute LWR invests in communities to enable those living in extreme poverty to build the resilience they need to thrive.

LWR began working in Nepal in 2009 to improve food security in for indigenous, Dalit and marginalized communities. Despite recent declines in poverty, Nepal remains one of the poorest countries in the world. LWR currently works with local partners on agriculture, food security, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects. LWR's work focuses in areas in western Nepal.

LWR began working in India in the 1950s by sending relief supplies to address the needs of those affected by famine and disease. LWR's work has evolved significantly over time to focus on long-term development needs. LWR's approach in India focuses on breaking the cycle of poverty for the most marginalized populations, including tribals, Dalits and women, through agriculture, climate change and emergency operations programs. LWR works in partnership with Indian civil society groups in Bihar state.

For additional information about LWR's response to this situation and other emergencies around the world, please visit lwr.org. You can also join the conversation about how LWR is responding to emergencies with a long-term view at facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief or twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief.



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