



# OCHA Nepal Situation Overview

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## Highlights:

- Legislative-Parliament resumed after five months of continuous obstruction by the opposition
- Parliament passed the budget for fiscal year 2009/2010
- 2010 Disaster Preparedness Plan rolled out nationwide
- National Action Plan to combat Gender-Based Violence announced

## CONTEXT

### Political Developments

Senior political party leaders continued to meet to try to resolve the political deadlock. However, there was little or no progress in resolving the protracted political deadlock among the three major parties- Unified Communist Party Nepal –Maoist (UCPN-M), Nepali Congress (NC) and CPN-Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML); little evidence of substantive progress was apparent.

The UCPN-M concluded the second phase of their protest programs to press for their demands for “Civilian Supremacy”. The protests were peacefully concluded throughout the country.

UCPN-Maoist Chairman Dahal closed the second phase of protest by announcing a deadline of 20 November for the government to fulfil their demands in particular “to either correct the President’s move or allow a parliamentary debate on the issue”. He further stated that the third phase of agitation would be decisive. The UCPN-M claimed that the government was not serious about ending the political stalemate. However, the party announced that it would engage in dialogue with the other political parties and be flexible in order to end the political deadlock. The Maoists have indicated that the third phase protests would include general strikes, and an increased mobilization of supporters.

Following a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal on 5 November, the governing coalition issued a press statement indicating that “the agitations launched by the UCPN-M breach the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and undermine consensus and cooperation thereby giving rise to the risk of confrontation and conflict in the future”. They called on the Maoists to stop the programme and “show flexibility for consensus”.

The UCPN-M lifted the blockade of the Legislature-Parliament (L-P) for a short period from 23-25 November to allow the passage of the 2009/10 budget to avert a financial crisis in government spending. The Maoist did not vote and resumed the blockade after the budget was passed.

UCPN-M Chairman Prachanda met with President Yadav on 26 November to discuss the political situation. The President reportedly said that he would

accept an agreement by the political parties aimed at ending the current deadlock.

The Constituent Assembly (CA) Committee on Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles finalized its preliminary draft report and concept paper on 4 November. There are wide differences within the Committees on Restructuring of the State and Forms of Governance on key issues including the kind of federal and governance systems to be adopted. Committee members have indicated that federalism and forms of governance issues need to be resolved by senior political leaders so that the work can proceed, but those leaders have been preoccupied with the political deadlock. It is likely that the four thematic committees that have yet to submit their concept papers.

On 16 November, the CA Committee on Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles submitted its concept paper to the Assembly, which expects to discuss it within a week. The CA Constitutional Committee (CC) gave its members an additional five days to submit their positions on the Committee’s draft concept paper. In addition to the CC, three other Thematic Committees have yet to submit their concept papers, for which the deadline was 15 November. The CA Speaker has informed the Prime Minister that while the 28 May 2010 promulgation date remains unchanged, the Assembly amended the drafting schedule for the seventh time on 18 November.

Despite its stated intention to meet on a weekly basis, the Special Committee to supervise, integrate and rehabilitate Maoist army personnel was unable to convene formally on 8 November, due to the absence of the two Maoist members. This is the third meeting in the past couple of weeks that the Maoists have not attended.

The information and consultation process for the disqualified was completed in Main Cantonment Sites 3 and 1 and their satellite camps. The feedback from the disqualified was similar to that received previously in other cantonment sites. This included objections to having been disqualified and to the proposed rehabilitation packages, and calling for a financial package or integration into the national security forces.

Following the submission of a 9-point Memorandum by the Madheshi People’s Rights Forum (MPRF) on 1 November, Prime Minister Nepal wrote to the party indicating that the government was prepared to

engage in dialogue on issues of their concern. MPRF leader Upendra Yadav, who undertook an official visit to New Delhi, appears to be under pressure from India to join the government. Reportedly, Yadav's conditions for joining the government include his being given the post of Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and a number of ministerial positions for party leaders.

The State Minister for Agriculture Karina Begam allegedly slapped the CDO of Parsa district on 10 November. Meanwhile, various civil service organizations protested against the incident, halting the regular work at the offices in all districts mainly in Narayani zone. They demanded action against the 'perpetrator' and a public apology. The civil employees have planned to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister to take disciplinary action. Civil service employees in Sarlahi, Rautahat, Dhanusha, Sunsari districts refused to work for two hours to protest the Minister's behaviour.

Since 16 November, Nepal Airlines Corporation (NAC) suspended all flights to Tulsipur, Dang, citing the lack of airplanes. NAC confirmed that this will continue until 15 March 2010. The local political parties and the Dang Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry have been protesting against the decision of the Nepal Airlines to shut down the flights to Tulsipur, Dang.

On 29 November, the Indigenous People's Front, an umbrella organization comprising nearly two dozen ethnic groups, called on the government to address its demands, including the right to self-determination, federal autonomy in the new constitution and inclusion in the public sector. The Front's recently established Struggle Committee announced a protest programme starting from 6 December to press for its demands.

A number of donors and the United Nations issued a joint statement appealing to political parties and other groups to respect development space. Robert Piper, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, said eastern Nepal, in particular eastern Tarai, is particularly affected by threats. He noted that donors were under pressure in terms of "financial intimidation" from different groups. Besides the UN and Association of International NGOs (AIN), signatories to the petition were: European Commission, Danida, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Embassy of Norway, DFID, SNV, AusAID, JICA, GTZ and Embassy of Finland. Altogether, their cumulative aid to Nepal is currently US\$ 500 million.

### **Special Security Strategy**

The Government of Nepal has enacted a "Special Program for Effective Peace and Security, Ending Impunity and Protecting Human Rights, 2066 (2009-10)" often referred to as the Special Security Program or Special Security Plan (SSP).

The District Administration Offices (DAO) and Police have not received additional resources through SSP, except directives from Ministry of Home Affairs

(MoHA). CDO and District Superintendent of Police perceive a reduction in strikes and criminal activities due to the implementation of SSP with presence of Armed Police Force. According to government officials, all political parties and civil society are agreed to implement SSP and have commitment to control the criminal activities. Local administration and Police has begun to ignore the political pressure on their security actions.

According to the report released by the Carter Center on 29 November, the current security environment around the country has moderately improved since early 2009, however, the situation across parts of the Tarai remains poor. "It is a positive step that there have been improvements in the security environment in some areas," said Dr. David Pottie, the Carter Center's Associate Director for Democracy Programs. "But more work needs to be done to strengthen the rule of law throughout Nepal and ensure that all Nepali citizens are able to fully enjoy peace and security in their daily lives."

The Center mentioned in its report that it is too early to assess the impact of the SSP given the recent implementation date (August/September 2009). However, there are reports that the SSP has helped with improve police presence and morale in priority districts. There are additional obstacles to police effectiveness resulting from widespread political interference in security affairs and allegations of official corruption that undermine public confidence in the police.

### **Safety and security**

On 2 November, Maoist cadres of Matrika Yadav-led faction confronted the chief of Birgunj Custom Office. The cadres had been pressuring the Chief of Custom Office, demanding that they should test the Furnace Oil, imported from Singapore through the Customs office. They reportedly seized 22 *bighas* of land and crops of a local landowner in Sarlahi district on the same day. District in-charge of the party informed that they seized the land as per party policy and will distribute it to the landless people, according to local media.

The civil servants affiliated with various organizations called a *bandh* in government offices of Parsa on 3 November demanding actions against the cadres of CPN-M (Matrika) who were involved in the 2 November confrontation at the Birgunj customs office.

On 6 November, UCPN-M cadres reportedly vandalized the CPN-UML and NC party offices in Bajhang District, but no clashes were reported in the aftermath of the incident. In Salyan, it was reported that on 1 November, a UCPN-M cadre was abducted by the CPN-UML cadres in Kabhra VDC and in Dadeldhura.

On 10 November, the UCPN-M imposed a blockade of all roads leading into the Kathmandu Valley. The significant number of UCPN-M cadres, including Young Communist League (YCL) cadres, and State

security personnel at all locations were deputed. However, the protestors and the security forces exercised restraint and the blockade ended peacefully.

On 12 November, approximately 50,000 UCPN-M protestors gathered at various points along the restricted area to encircle Singha Durbar. A substantial deployment of Nepal Police (NP) and Armed Police Force (APF) personnel were observed. The situation was generally peaceful, though protestors tried to force their way into the restricted zone; the security forces responded with baton charges and fired tear gas shells and the protestors pelted stones at the security forces. Four police personnel and twenty-five protestors sustained minor injuries in the clash.

On 13 November, the final day of the UCPN-M's announced second phase of protests and the second day of the picketing of Singha Durbar, approximately 30,000 protestors were observed and the situation remained peaceful. The protest programme concluded with rallies leading from different locations around the complex and converged into a mass gathering at Exhibition Road, where senior UCPN-M leaders delivered speeches. UCPN-M issued an "ultimatum" to the Government, stating that more aggressive protests will be launched if an agreement is not reached by 20 November 2009.

On 3 November, UCPN-M implemented their second round of protests in VDCs and Municipalities shouting slogans against the government and the President. The daily work of the local authorities was disrupted. The Maoist cadres reportedly expelled all the personnel from their offices by padlocking the main entrances. However, the agitation was peaceful with songs and dances.

The UCPN-M picketed District Administration Offices (DAO) on 4 and 5 November. All Government offices were disrupted. The protest programme was conducted peacefully except in Sunsari district. At least two dozen protestors, including six APF police officers were injured when a clash ensued at the DAO in Inaruwa. The police fired four tear gas shells to bring the situation under control, according to local media.

The UCPN-M cancelled the plan to block the Kathmandu airport on 10 November, citing the lack of the necessary preparation and the pressure from the international community respectively.

On 28 November two explosive devices, found in central office of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal at Baluwatar of Kathmandu, were reportedly diffused. Jatiya Mukti Morcha reportedly claimed responsibility.

### **Reach of the State**

OCHA Biratnagar has reported that in Bhojpur district, approximately 40 percent of the government posts have been vacant for past 8 months. This is partly due to the geographic isolation, difficult access and lack of incentives to work in remote areas. Similarly, it is reported that about 40 percent of VDC secretary posts are vacant and each VDC secretary is responsible for

more than one VDC in five districts in the Eastern Region. More than 85 percent of VDC secretaries are based in District headquarters due to the remoteness and security perceptions. LDOs perceive that if the one-way transfer trend continues, all VDCs will be vacated in several months.

The secretary of the LPC in Dadeldhura district has padlocked the LPC office for the last five months, demanding his salary as well as a contract extension. The padlocking has affected the identification, selection, and rehabilitation process of conflict victims. In the meantime, UCPN-M representatives in Doti resigned from the LPC on 1 November, and the CDO raised concerns that this will impact the effective functioning of the committee.

On 5 November, the Tharuhat Autonomous State Council (TASC) appealed to all the businessmen to follow the price of the food grains fixed by the TASC. The TASC has warned there will be serious consequences if the TASC fixed price is not followed. During the previous weeks, TASC geared up its activities training and mobilization activities in the Mid and Far-Western Regions. In August, TASC obstructed the DDC tax collection and extraction natural resources in Kailali district, citing International Labour Organization (ILO) 169.

### **Operational Space**

After a period of moderate improvement in operational space since June 2009 there is a recent deterioration in the operating environment based on field reports, security incidents and reported Basic Operating Guidelines (BOGs) violations. In eastern hills, groups have been targeting civil servants and the business community. In addition, some organisations received extortion letters. In some districts, violence between Young Communist league (YCL) and Youth Force has meant that development space in the relevant VDCs has been reduced due to staff perceptions of security. Extortion by armed groups appears to be rising again following a lull in the middle of the year. In November an armed group sent threatening letters to some organisations working in the Eastern Terai. No significant BOGs violations were reported in western Nepal in November.

## **HUMANITARIAN SITUATION**

### **Koshi Flood Recovery, Eastern Region:**

Approximately 42,800 Nepalese (7,563 households) were affected by the Koshi floods in Sunsari District on 18 August 2008, in addition to an estimated 11,000 Indian nationals (2,328 households), according to the Government of Nepal. Distribution of comprehensive compensation package- land and crop is continuing for the flood affected population. The distribution process started from 26 August 2009 and was expected to be complete within three months.

As of 17 November, 2,763 families have received the package totalling NPR 320 million. Distribution of the

package has been completed in the most-affected Shripur and nearing completion in Paschim Kushaha VDC. Under the provision made by government of Nepal, households will get 50% of the land compensation and 100% of crops compensation in first instalment.

According to the decision of the central government to provide 2 kattha of land for the 1422 landless families, CDO office has negotiated for some 25 bigha of land in Haripur VDC where the landless will be settled during the first phase. The DDC has designated a focal person to verify landless families, to distribute land and to support in the implementation of low-cost housing construction schemes.

UNDP and WFP supported Food for Work with cash top up program has ended. The program provided 50 days of employment to 7085 households. QIPSI Program with UNDP support is still on going. UNDP and DDC/LDF have agreed for the implementation of livelihood programme under Koshi Early Recovery Programme (KERP) proposed by UNDP in flood affected areas.

#### **Issues and Challenges:**

- Delay in releasing funding has affected the recovery activities. Asian Development Bank (ADB) is to support long term recovery activities in four sectors- Water and Sanitation, Irrigation, Rural roads and Agriculture in the flood affected areas.
- It has been difficult to transport essential goods and materials to project sites due to bad road conditions.
- There is a growing demand by the returnees to extend food for work and cash top up program since it is providing food security and short term employment. The LDO and CDO have appealed for further assistance for the Food for Work Program for returnees in the red zone areas.
- There is need to have new intervention in red zone to start livelihood activities. Land improvement of the red zone is a priority. Intensive support in irrigation system is equally necessary to revitalize the red zone.

#### **National Cluster Updates**

##### **Food Security**

Between October and mid-November, WFP supported food/cash-for-work activities, more than 10,500 households created critical assets aimed at improving access to food. Nearly 85,000 people received 9,500 tons of food and US\$500,000 of cash assistance in exchange for working on critical infrastructure projects. However, severe and consecutive drought, sustained high food prices and the global economic crisis have tripled the number of food insecure people in Nepal over the last three years. An additional 300,000 Nepalese, for a total of 3.7 million, are facing food insecurity because of the poor summer crop. At an aggregate level, food security will slightly improve over the next two months because of the summer paddy

harvest, but hundreds of thousands of the poorest subsistence farmers in the Mid and Far West will continue to struggle to meet their needs as household food stocks are depleted and high food prices hinder their ability to purchase enough food in the markets. In the past months, WFP has been providing food assistance to more than 1.6 million of the most food insecure Nepalese which has helped to stave off hunger for many. This level of assistance will be needed through early 2010 until winter crops have been harvested in May/June. As the winter lean season approaches, poor paddy crops in India and other countries in the region will likely push food prices even higher leading to increased vulnerability especially in early 2010.

Because of a critical funding shortfall, WFP has been forced to reduced its planned beneficiary caseload in December from 1.2 million to 600,000. Without immediate funds, the caseload will be reduced to only 350,000 in January - or less than 30 percent of current needs. With an estimated 400,000 ton food shortage in Nepal, this puts hundreds of thousands of families at risk in a period leading up to the traditional lean season. Micronutrient powder distributions aimed at improving malnutrition for more than 100,000 children under 5 will also be impacted.

##### **Health**

District AIDS coordination committee (DACC) celebrated AIDS day in Dang district on 2 December to promote awareness on HIV and AIDS. Participants included the staffs from District Health Office (DHO), the District Development Committee (DDC), the District Education Office (DEO), the Community Health Institute, Nepal Family Planning Association, and SISA Nepal. Contests and rallies were organized in schools throughout the district to mark the day. According to the DACC of Banke, as of July 2009 there were 325 HIV positive (156 female and 159 male), and since then, there are additional 35 HIV cases registered. Migrant workers, sex workers and their spouses are included in high risk groups. INF, Save the Children, LWF, UNDP and other organizations are working on HIV sector with different kinds of activities and awareness programs.

The Rotary Club of Dhulikhel and Rotary Community Corps of Kailali jointly hosted Optical Camps in Banke, Bardia and Kailali districts. Fourteen Australian Optical team members conducted optical camps in 6 locations in Kailali district. The technical and human resources support was provided by the Phate Children Eye Hospital in Banke, and Geta Eye Hospital in Kailali. A total of 3,605 patients were treated and 292 cataract patients were referred to Phate and Geta Eye Hospital for surgery. The Rotary Optical Team and both hospitals covered the cost of surgery. Optical glasses and eye drops were provided free of cost and other costs for the camps were covered by the Rotary Optical Team of Australia. Volunteers from local organisation RCC, BASE, and Youth Clubs were mobilized to help the patients.

## **Nutrition**

Nutrition Assessments in the Mid and Far Western region: The surveys are underway in the Mid and Far Western regions to generate updated information of the severity and magnitude of child under nutrition in a context characterized by high to severe food insecurity as a result of the residual impacts of the 2008/2009 winter drought and the food crisis. Data collection is anticipated to be completed by end December. A comprehensive nutrition response plan will be developed based on the findings and implemented in collaboration with partners.

Strengthening in country capacity for Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM): Ongoing efforts to strengthen in-country capacity for treatment and care of children suffering from acute malnutrition through community based approaches received a further boost through support extended to Nepal by the UNICEF Asia Pacific Shared Services Centre (APSSC) regional office. The support provided included review of technical guidelines for CMAM; strengthening in country CMAM training capacity as well as review of the CMAM implementation. Two CMAM advisors from VALID International visited Nepal from 8 to 18 November and conducted Master Training of Trainers course on CMAM as well as reviewing technical guidelines and the CMAM pilot programme. Twenty three health staff benefited from the training.

SLEAC Coverage assessment of CMAM pilot in Bardiya District, MWR: Concern Worldwide conducted an assessment for the pilot CMAM programme in Bardiya District. As part of the assessment, the capacity of the district health staff to routinely assess coverage in their catchment area with minimal resources was enhanced. Eleven health facilities participated in the assessment. The Simplified- LQAS Evaluation of Access and Coverage (SLEAC) methodology was used to assess and classify coverage of CMAM both within each health facility catchment area and across the district against a target level. Programme coverage at the district level was found to be below 50 percent. The main barriers to coverage as reported by mothers of uncovered SAM cases were: lack of knowledge of the programme; distance to treatment sites; and lack of awareness that their children were malnourished.

Regional workshop on national nutrition surveillance: UNICEF Nepal participated in a regional workshop on national nutrition surveillance organised by WHO regional office for South East Asia. The workshop was held from 30 November to 2 December in Kathmandu and it drew participants from South East Asia region. A presentation on nutrition surveillance in Nepal highlighting an innovative community based nutrition surveillance system was delivered at the meeting.

## **Protection**

As a follow-up of Prime Minister's declaration of 2010 as the national year against Gender Based Violence

on 9 September, an inter-ministerial steering committee to combat Violence against Women has been formed. The committee is chaired by the Chief Secretary and co-chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare and the Secretary of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers. A National Plan of Action (NPA) was announced by the Prime Minister on 25 November, the first day of the sixteen-day campaign against GBV.

On 9 November, OHCHR met with representatives from INSEC (Informal Sector Service Center), WOREC (Women's Rehabilitation Center), Advocacy Forum and other human rights defenders in Biratnagar, to discuss the sixteen-day campaign against violence against women.

On 11 and 12 November, OHCHR and the NBA organized a workshop in Kathmandu on protecting economic, social and cultural rights and women's rights in the new constitution. Panellists included chairpersons of the relevant thematic committees of the Constituent Assembly (CA), including the Committee on Fundamental Rights. The comments from the workshop will be submitted to the CA's Constitutional Committee.

On 5 November, the Aaishwarya Community Forest Users Group (ACFUG) in Pathraiya VDC ward-4 of Kailali expressed its concern regarding the distribution of the community forest land to the freed Kamaiyas by the Land Reform Office (LRO). The ACFUG alleged that the LRO is going to distribute 35 Bighas<sup>1</sup> of land to the freed Kamaiyas without any consultation with the ACFUG.

Following the emancipation of Haliyas<sup>2</sup> on 6 September 2008, the government and the Federation of the National Haliya Liberation Society (NHLS) have been conducting the first census of Haliyas. The NHLS and the government have mobilized 450 people in the nine districts in FWR, following which they will survey the MWR districts. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is supporting the NHLS in FWR. The Haliyas and the government signed a five point agreement prior to the Haliyas' emancipation which included, termination of all the loans and debts incurred by the Haliyas, emancipation of the Haliya in Nepal, and formation of a 9 member team to address the 11 point demand of the agitating Haliyas. The NHLS protest program is also asking for a guarantee of security for the Haliyas who fight against the caste discrimination and injustice. As the government has yet to come up with a rehabilitation program, some Haliyas have chosen to return to work for the landlords.

## **Agriculture and Livestock**

The continuous heavy rainfall that affected Terai districts in the Mid and Far Western Regions during the first week of October resulted in extensive floods

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Bigha equals 0.677 hectare

<sup>2</sup> Haliyas are freed bonded labor in Far and Mid western region of Nepal

which severely impacted the local agricultural production and hence the food security status. Following a joint assessment carried out by the FAO, OCHA and the MoAC/DADOs to quantify the damages to the agricultural production, funds were mobilised through OCHA's Emergency Cash Grant to support the most affected farmers. FAO assisted a total of 4,400 families (2,400 families in Kailali and 2,000 families in Kanchanpur) with the provision of 80 MT of improved wheat seed.

In the five districts of Mid Western Region and as part of FAO's project on the rehabilitation of agricultural communities affected by conflict, the distribution of 3,300 goats has taken place during November. All goats prior to be handed over to farmers were ear tagged and vaccinated. Moreover, farmers also received trainings on animal husbandry in addition to nutrition and crop production as part of the overall programme under the project.



Photo 1 : Beneficiaries receiving goats in Rolpa district- FAO

In Sunsari district in the Eastern Region, FAO has finalised the distribution of 90.35 MT of complex (N:P:K:S) and urea fertilisers. The input distribution was coupled to the provision of wheat seeds supplied by the DADO to flood affected farmers. The complex fertiliser has been utilised at the time of sowing of the wheat seeds while urea will be applied as top dressing for the crop at a later stage.

During 29-30 November, a consultative inception workshop of the Food Facility project funded by the European Union took place in Kathmandu. During the workshop, FAO with the participation of the Secretary and Joint Secretaries of MoAC, Regional Agriculture Directors, Regional Livestock Directors, Directors General and Deputy Directors General of the Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Department of Livestock Services (DLS), the DADOs and DLSOs of the ten districts targeted by the programme in addition to a representative from WFP and from the Delegation of the European Union, shared and agreed to the project's objectives, areas of intervention and implementation modalities of the programme. The

project's agricultural input packages, crop varieties, distribution and delivery time as well as the potential introduction of a livestock component were examined. The modalities for farmers' training and capacity building for the MoAC staff were also discussed.

#### **Shelter**

After a three-day sit in protest program in front of the District Administration Office, flood victims returned to Bandevi shelter in Kanchanpur. Due to the October floods, the land in two villages of Dekhatbhuli VDC was badly damaged, and around 200 flood victims are demanding permission to remain in the shelter area until they are resettled to safe land. They are also asking for vocational training, health services, safe drinking water and food.

#### **Disaster Preparedness**

In 2009, the Government of Nepal, UN agencies, INGOs/NGOs, and the Red Cross Movement coordinated preparedness events in 31 districts including contingency planning workshops in 7 districts for the first time. Due to these preparedness activities, districts such as Kailali, Kanchapur and Jhapa were able to reduce the negative impact of floods in 2009.

In order to plan disaster preparedness activities for the remainder of 2009 and through 2010, a series of planning meetings were held with the Association of International NGOs (AIN)'s Task Group on Disaster Management (TGDM) during November. UN agencies, AIN members and the Nepal Red Cross Society held preliminary discussions on the process, methodologies, organizational roles (as a lead and/or supporting) and responsibilities for better preparedness during disasters in 2010 at the district, regional and central levels. As a start to the preparedness planning activities, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) has sent out instructions to the Chief District Officers (CDOs) of 75 districts, and has requested support from line ministries to implement flood and landslide preparedness activities for 2010.

#### **INGO Updates:**

**CARE Nepal:** CARE provided tarpaulin equivalent NPR 50,000 to a school in Bajhang through CARE's ASHA program. CARE Nepal through its partners FAYA and WOREC Nepal is providing warm clothes to 279 children and 279 blankets and nutritious flour to 300 pregnant and lactating mothers in Kailali from its Emergency Response Fund (ERF).

**Handicap International Advocacy Initiatives:** The first meeting of the National Coordination Working Group (NCWG) on the Rights and Benefits of Persons with Disabilities comprising of sixteen permanent members from government ministries and non-governmental disability stakeholders was held on 23 November in Kathmandu, led by the National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (NFDN).

The NCWG will facilitate and enhance coordination and cooperation among disability stakeholders and provide a single forum to discuss present and

emerging disability issues. Through quarterly meetings and regular dialogue, the NCWG will develop plans and strategies for promoting and strengthening rights and benefits of persons with disabilities.

Two major agenda items were: (a) the status and progress of UNCRPD ratification and Constitution drafting process from a disability perspective, (b) the status and perspective of rehabilitation of victims of conflicts and persons with disabilities in general.

**International Relief and Development (IRD):** IRD supported the DDRC in coordinating a lessons learned workshop in Achham on 24 November. The discussion was focused on the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and health clusters' response to the diarrhea outbreak. Thirty-four participants attended. One of the gaps identified was the inability to mobilize all the clusters during the outbreak and lack of stockpiling of WASH materials in the district. Although there reportedly was a contingency plan for the district, it was not used.

**Lutheran World Federation (LWF):** On 9 and 10 November, LWF-Nepal organized the Sphere Standards trainings to the DDRC members in Banke district. The training will improve district authorities' ability to deliver quality humanitarian assistance to disaster victims in future.

**Save the Children (SC):** Save the children organized basic First Aid Training for child club members in Bhimdattanagar, Kanchanpur from 28 November to 1 December. Twenty-seven 15-18 year-olds training from flood prone areas of Kailali and Kanchanpur districts actively participated. The objective was to develop first aid volunteers for disaster victims and injured people (especially children and adolescents); to increase the knowledge of children on first aid services; and to have trained personnel on standby for immediate mobilization if necessary.



Photo 2 : Children at simulation Exercise-SC

Likewise, SC conducted school-based disaster risk reduction/ climate change adaptation (DRR/CCA) training from 27 to 30 November in Bardiya district. Fourteen teachers and members of school management committees participated. The aim was to

enable participants to design and implement school based DRR/CCA program in the five most vulnerable schools. Hazard mapping, participatory vulnerability and capacity assessment and designing range of DRR/CCA activities were the main contents. Participants were also involved in simulation and drilling exercises related to safer schools.

**OXFAM GB Nepal:** Oxfam's ongoing activities on diarrhoea response in western Nepal focused on hygiene promotion in 4 districts. Total of 531 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) have been mobilized for hygiene awareness activities including distribution of Oral Re-hydration Solution and demonstration of hand-washing and distribution of water guard in 43 VDCs. Incidence of diarrhea has dramatically reduced (an average of 2 percent) in the programme VDCs. Final survey on KAP (knowledge, attitude and practice) on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion completed in Baitadi and Dadeldhura districts and ongoing in Surkhet and Dailekh.

#### COORDINATION

OCHA is supporting district disaster preparedness planning and lesson learnt workshops in districts across the country. At the regional level, OCHA sub-offices in Biratnagar and Nepalgunj are coordinating preparedness activities with the DDRC and at the central level with AIN TGDM and the Ministry Of Home Affairs.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS/ MEETINGS

- 9 December: Contact Group Meeting, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, UN Conference Room
- 11 December: Operational IASC Meeting, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, OCHA Conference Room
- 17 December: Emergency Health and Nutrition Working Group Meeting, 10:00 am – 11:30 am, UNICEF Meeting Room
- 6 January 2010: Contact Group Meeting, 10:30 am – 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 to 31 October, '09  
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadatas.php?id=677>

Nepal: Reports of Bandhs / Blockades - 1 to 31 October, '09  
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadatas.php?id=678>

NEPAL: Reports of Security Incidents, Jan - Sept, '09  
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadatas.php?id=675>

Nepal: Reports of Bandhs/Blockades, Jan – Sept, '09  
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadatas.php?id=676>

#### RECENT REPORTS AVAILABLE:

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

ICRC Report: Families of Missing Person in Nepal (A study of their needs)

[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=556](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=556)

National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management 2009

[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=555](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=555)

UNDAF Annual Report 2008

[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=554](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=554)

Carter Center: First Interim Report

[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=552](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=552)

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