



OCHA Nepal Situation Overview

Issue No. 53, covering the period 1 September to 7 October 2009

Kathmandu, 8 October 2009

Highlights:

- Food insecurity in 13 Far and Mid Western districts further deteriorates
- Coalition of 22 parties marked its 100 days in government on 13 September
- Constituent Assembly (CA) made sixth revision to the constitution-drafting timeline
- Newly-appointed Chief of Army Staff General Chhatra Man Singh Gurung

CONTEXT

Political Developments

Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal's efforts to maintain the coalition government of 22 parties resulted in a sixth expansion of the Cabinet on 3 September. With the inclusion of nine new ministers, including two full Ministers, six State Ministers and an Assistant Minister, the Cabinet now has 42 members.

The stripping of Vice President Paramananda Jha's state privileges following his failure to comply with a Supreme Court directive to re-take the oath of office in Nepali prompted some Madheshi parliamentarians to announce the withdrawal of their support to the coalition, calling the move "anti-Madhesh". However, on 7 September, the three Madheshi members of the coalition (MPRF-D, SP and Tarai Madhesh Democratic Party) decided to continue supporting the Government while sharply criticizing its move.

Addressing rallies in Biratnagar on 6 September and Surkhet on 7 September, UCPN-M chairman Prachanda said the struggle for "civilian supremacy" would continue, bringing the country to a standstill if necessary, to push for discussion of the President's move in the Constituent Assembly (CA), which also acts as a Legislature-Parliament (L-P).

Acting Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) General Chhatra Man Singh Gurung took up the position of CoAS on 9 September following the retirement of General Rookmangud Katawal. Upon assuming the post, General Gurung said that the Nepal Army would cooperate with the government in concluding the peace process and drafting the new constitution while maintaining its "non-political character". He further said the Army would be developed as a cooperative, efficient and dependable force that would adhere to the Interim Constitution, Military Act and Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and that it respected "civilian supremacy" and multiparty democracy.

The Constituent Assembly (CA) made a sixth revision to the constitution-drafting timeline on 9 September. The CA Chairman Subas Nembang warned senior political leaders that unless the latest timeline was adhered to, the May 2010 deadline would not be met. The schedule was revised after debates on only six of the eleven concept papers were completed by 8 September. (Four thematic papers and one from the Constitutional Committee are yet to be submitted)

Relations between the Nepali Congress (NC) and Prime Minister Nepal, as well as the NC's internal dynamics, remain strained due to NC President Girija Prasad Koirala's continuing insistence that his daughter, Foreign Minister Sujata Koirala, be appointed Deputy Prime Minister. Citing Koirala's dissatisfaction over PM Nepal's "unilateral" style of functioning (with reference to the expansion of Cabinet and the appointment of four Ambassadors), NC cabinet members did not attend two significant functions – the swearing-in ceremony of the new Ministers and the Government's press conference to mark its 100 days on 13 September.

UCPN-M leaders pressed for a parliamentary debate regarding President Ram Baran Yadav's 3 May reinstatement of CoAS Katawal at a meeting on 15 September. NC and UML leaders rejected any steps which, in their view, would reduce the president's responsibilities and said the Maoists should table a proposal that could be acceptable to all parties. The NC, supported by the UML, had proposed that the UCPN-M either: i) table an impeachment motion against the president, if it believed his action had been unconstitutional; ii) table a vote of no-confidence against the prime minister; or iii) table an alternative proposal which could be considered without the president having to attend the L-P.

On 20 September, Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal participated in the UN General Assembly. He spoke in the general debate and attended meetings including a lunch convened by US President Barack Obama for the top ten countries contributing troops to UN peacekeeping operations. He returned on 28 September, the main day of Dashain festival .

The UCPN-M continued to obstruct the L-P and have been increasingly resorting to violence at protests and rallies in Kathmandu and several other cities calling for the government to address “civilian supremacy”.

On 24 September, NC President Girija Prasad Koirala, UCPN-M Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal “Prachanda” and UML General Secretary Ishwore Pokhrel spoke in a reconciliatory manner on a three-way public telephone conversation during the launch of a new mobile phone service in the Mid-Western region. They said they were committed to ending the political stalemate through consensus. This contrasted with Prachanda’s comment on 22 September that the UCPN-M might table a no-confidence motion if the government did not heed Maoist demands for a discussion in the L-P of President Yadav’s reinstatement of former CoAS Katawal.

The L-P had stopped functioning during Dashain holidays, but the session resumed on 7 October. The Maoists also continued with their blockade from that date. A looming deadline is the expiration in mid-October of the temporary spending authority which was passed by the L-P to allow government expenditure. The budget for the year 2009/10 which began in July has yet to be adopted due to the obstruction of the L-P.

During the reporting period, the three major parties, UCPN-M, UML, and the NC, intensified talks aimed at ending the current political deadlock and lifting the Maoists’ blockade of the CA. The Maoists are calling for the Interim Constitution to be amended to define and reportedly limit the president’s responsibilities regarding the Nepal Army, but it is not clear whether they will consider this measure to be sufficient. Meanwhile, the UML and NC maintain that “civilian supremacy” can be addressed without drawing the president into controversy, and that any constitutional amendment should not undermine the president’s role as the Supreme Commander of the Nepal Army, as enshrined in the Interim Constitution.

On 30 September, UCPN-Maoist Chairman Dahal met President Yadav at his office raising hopes for an end to the current political deadlock soon. On the same

day, ruling CPN-UML and NC agreed to table a joint proposal at the CA to end the long standing deadlock.

Although the major political parties said that a political consensus will be reached by 7 October, the deadline passed without any agreement. The issue of Civilian Supremacy continues to remain a bone of contention. Failing to reach to political consensus before Tihar festival, the UCPN-Maoist might launch its so-called final and third decisive movement. The Maoists, who have adopted a strategy of holding street protests and blocking the CA while simultaneously continuing discussions with other parties, appear flexible in finding a way forward.

The Armed Police Force (APF) on 25 September advertised 2,726 vacancies as part of the government’s new security plan which began implementation in August. Increasing the number of APF personnel is intended in particular to combat the activities of armed criminal groups, including cross-border crimes. The recruitment is taking place at a time when the Special Committee has yet to formulate recommendations on integration of MaoA personnel into the security forces.

The Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator (HC/RC), Robert Piper launched the Human Development Report on 5 October. Nepal remains one of the least developed countries, although it moved up one position in the global rankings, to 144 out of 182.

Special Security Strategy

As a result of the Special Security Strategy launched by the government to maintain law and order in 36 districts across the country, security personnel have increased their actions.

On 5 September, police arrested both the head and the Morang district “commander” of the underground Nepal Defence Army (NDA).

Morang police reportedly arrested two persons from Bhatta Chowk of Biratnagar on 18 September while they were asking for donation from a private school in the name of Janatantrik Madhesh Mukti Tigers Jwala Singh (JTMM), an armed Terai outfit.

Armed Police Border Security Force, Parsa reportedly arrested three armed cadres of Janatantrik Tarai Mukti Morcha - Jwala Singh (JTMM-JS) on 22 September from Parabanipur VDC of Parsa district and two cadres of Akhil Tarai Mukti Morcha (ATMM) on 21 September from same VDC.

The Government has established APF base camps in Bhojpur, Dhankuta and Sankhuwasabha, districts to control the activities of various underground outfits.

Safety and security

From 31 August, UCPN-M has imposed an indefinite bandh (general strike) in Taplejung district to protest the killing of a YCL cadre on 25 August and to demand that the deceased be declared a martyr.

On 1 and 2 September, the Nepal Police (NP) arrested 9 Tibetans in Kathmandu on charges of disrupting public order and security. The CDO decided to hold them under preventive detention for ten days. All of the arrested were released on 6 September, before the ten-day preventive detention expired.

On 3 September the Federal Democratic National Forum (FDNF) which consists of eight organizations, including the Federal Limbuwan State Council (Kumar Lingden) (FLSC-KL), Tharuhat Joint Struggle Committee (TJSC), Tharu Welfare Society and Khumbuwan Democratic Front, imposed a bandh in Udayapur, Sunsari, Taplejung, Panchthar, Dhankuta, Jhapa and Morang districts of the Eastern Region. The bandh was strictly enforced: there was no vehicular movement reported and markets remained closed.

On 3 September, the Indigenous, Dalit and Muslim Joint Struggle Committee, which includes various indigenous, Dalit and Muslim organizations, imposed a bandh in Kailali, Bardiya, Banke and Dang districts of the Mid and Far west Regions to demand the implementation of different agreements reached between the Government and various indigenous and marginalized groups, and to demand the 'implementation' of ILO Convention 169.

Protests against the Supreme Court verdict instructing the Government to re-administer the oath of office to the Vice President continue. On 3 September, the Madheshi Intellectuals, affiliated to Madheshi People's Rights Forum (MPRF), staged a silent rally to protest the Supreme Court's decision.

On 13 September, as part of their protest program, UCPN -Maoists showed black flags to the Prime Minister in Chitwan district.

On 14 September, 36 protestors and five police personnel were reportedly injured during a scuffle between protestors and police when UCPN-M cadres tried to disrupt the convocation ceremony of Purwanchal University, attended by Prime Minister at Shahid Stadium in Biratnagar. Maoist cadres tried to prevent the Prime Minister from entering by waving black flags and shouting slogans against the

government. Police fired tear gas shells and baton-charged to disperse the protesting crowd after the protestors pelted stones at the security forces.

On 16 September, UCPN-Maoist activists staged demonstrations against the Prime Minister at Tribhuvan University in Kritipur. They threw stones and waved black flags while the PM was speaking. A few Maoist cadres were injured when the police used force to break the protest.

On 18 September, activists of UCPN-Maoist hurled stones at the Finance Minister's motorcade and waved black flags in Kavre district. As many as 15 cadres of UCPN-Maoist were injured in a scuffle with the police. The police fired some shells of tear gas to disperse the crowd.

UCPN-M held demonstration rallies in Kochila¹ districts. Kochila Autonomous Council cadres and UCPN-M affiliated Kochila Liberation Front cadres organized a rally and a corner meeting in Biratnagar-Morang district on 22 September, in Birtamod.

On 23 September, Police arrested a gang of eight thieves involved in several robberies around the capital. The gang was allegedly responsible for thefts in Tahachal, Swayambhu, Dhobi Chaur, Kapan, Sainbu, Khumaltar, Dhapakhel, Sanepa and Dholahiti over the past few months.

On 29 September, cadres of Kirat Janwadi Workers Party (KJWP) held armed demonstrations in Dhankuta and Bhojpur districts as part of their publicity program.

On 30 September, an IED exploded at Mechi Municipality Office at Kakarvitta of Jhapa District by the 'Madhesh Democratic Revolutionary Party. The police identified the IED as a pipe bomb.

On 30 September, three persons were injured in a clash between the Tarun Dal youth wing of Nepali Congress and Youth Force, the youth wing of the CPN-UML, in Daha VDC, Kalikot District.

Reach of the State

On 7 September, an unidentified group killed the former secretary of Beldangi Refugee camp in Jhapa district.

¹ Koche-Meche ethnic community, UCPN-M has proposed a Kochila Federal State comprising Morang, Sunsari, Jhapa and some southern parts of Ilam district, for restructuring Nepal into federalism

A Madhesi Janaadhikar Forum-Democratic (MJF-D) cadre was abducted from Khajurakhurd Village Development Committee (VDC), Banke District, on 28 September

In the several Districts of the MWR/FWR, the absence of the secretaries in the VDC Offices has had serious repercussions on the service delivery at the community level. The VDC offices rebuilt after the conflict have again been destroyed by the emerging group. For example, the Pathraiya VDC office was destroyed by Tharuhat cadres during the February 2009 Protest.

Operational Space

Cadres of various Terai based organizations including Terai Madhesh Student Front, Madhesi Student Forum Nepal, Maithali Student Council and Red Rose Society Nepal reportedly padlocked the office of a NGO-Youth Action Nepal in Biratnagar from 15-21 September accusing them of not recruiting Madhesi staff in their office. They reportedly demanded to make the recruitment process transparent and inclusive.

The Federal Limbuwan State Council (FLSC) - Lingden faction reportedly warned of physical action if all teachers and employees of the District Education Office in Taplejung failed to pay donations as demanded through a letter to the District Education Office on 19 September. The FLSC Lingden faction was asking for two days' salary from all teachers and staffs to the party. The FLSC also sent a letter to the District Chairperson of Nepal Teachers Union and asked for the same.

Kirant Janabadi Workers Party (KJWP) reportedly intensified extortion activities in northern parts of Khotang District since 9 August, according to local media. KJWP cadres are reportedly asking for donations and threatening physical actions against those who fail to pay their demands. Two local families were displaced from Jaleswori VDC of the district due to the threats.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Koshi Flood Recovery, Eastern Region:

General Updates

The distribution of comprehensive compensation package to the Koshi flood affected started on August 26. Under the new provision, households will receive 50% of land compensation and 100% of the crop compensation packages. UNDP has provided logistical

support through DDC. 10 full-time staff are involved in the distribution. The work is time consuming and the process lengthy as it needs verification of each plot according to the owner's name, the kitta² number, and calculate the exact amount to be deposited according to the flood- affected land classification. One staff has been deputed by IOM to support the newly established disaster information centre.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): WSSDO completed decommissioning of WASH facilities from vacated IDP camps in Jhumka and it is ongoing in Khuniyadhar camp with support from Plan Nepal. Arsenic tests of newly installed tubewells in flood affected area are underway with Plan Nepal.

ADB will support drinking water and sanitation in three sectors. They will construct 4 overhead tanks, 3500 tube wells, and 4500 toilets. A consultant team has been hired and deployed to assist with this work. ADB has allocated the funds but the parliament needs to pass the bill so that funds can be channelled to the local implementing partners. All documents have been prepared for tender.

869 tube wells have been installed in returned areas by three agencies, WSSDO 129, DEPROSC Nepal 190 and DDC/LDF 550 with the support from UNDP.

Plan Nepal has introduced Selenium testing for the tubewells of flood affected areas. If the quantity of Selenium is found to be high, it will minimise the effects of the arsenic. This test will be applied if the arsenic level is more than 50 ppp.

Iron levels were found to be high in flood affected areas. Save the Children will install iron normalization plants in all schools for which WSSDO will provide the technical assistance.

Food Security: After the completion of a joint collaboration program of UNDP/WFP/QIPSI/DDC/DEPROSC of Food for Work and Cash for Work, DEPROSC has formally handed over the program to the DDC. The aim of the program was to provide short-term employment of 50 days and food security to the flood affected families in returned areas. 7484 individuals from 7085 households benefited from this program. Rural roads, irrigation dams, culverts, tube wells and community fish ponds were constructed under this scheme.

Health and Nutrition: The District health Office has been providing regular health services to all Koshi flood-affected through the health posts of the

² Kitta is a Nepali name for land plot number

respective VDCs. Major health problems faced by the victims were eye, ear and respiratory infections, skin disease, diarrhoea, and fever. UPCA Nepal, a local NGO with support from Save the Children, is providing health check ups to all students from flood-affected schools. Health check ups have been completed in 14 out of the 16 planned schools. Health checks up will be provided to Madrassas (Muslim schools) after the festival season of Roja. UPCA Nepal has mobilized 22 women health workers in 3 VDCs of flood affected areas regularly. Plan Nepal has provided medicine worth NPR 75,000 to the DHO to distribute to flood-affected. There are gaps in the health service centres and health posts. DHO has been requested monitoring of health posts to make health services more effective.

Education: The District Education Office informed that the DEO has released the budget to concerned educational institutions to fill the interim gap which has been supported by UNICEF. Plan Nepal is supporting with educational materials to all flood-affected schools and madrassas. Construction of three schools which were swept away by flooding is nearing completion with the support of UPCA Nepal and financial contribution of Save the Children. Out-of-School programs in 3 VDCs through 15 centres have also started. Of the planned 10 schools, 7 schools have been equipped with child friendly classrooms, education material and furniture.

Plan Nepal is distributing school kits containing playing materials, story books, etc. to 14 schools and 11 Madrassas.

World Vision has carried out need assessment of ECD centres in flood affected areas. Based on their recommendation, education sector agencies will mobilize funds.

Agriculture and Livestock: FAO has procured 254 metric tons of fertilizer in Sunsari district. FAO was advised to monitor and verify the beneficiaries who received paddy seed from SFRALSO with the support from District Agriculture Development Office and distribute the fertilizer to only those who have planted the seed in field. Field monitoring report obtained from DADO will be further verified by concern partner NGO.

To distribute the fertilizer, FAO has selected 4 local NGOs – Save the Earth Foundation, International Child Property and Community Consequence Program Nepal, Suryamukhi Youth Club and Environment and Wildlife Conservation Society from Sunsari. The local NGOs have signed a formal agreement with FAO.

Remaining fertilizer will be used in another season of agricultural activities.

DADO can only utilize ADB funds after the financial bill is passed by the parliament.

All line agencies that will be involved in agriculture and livestock activities have submitted their plans to the government and are waiting for final approval. ADB will be financially supporting all line agencies in their early recovery work.

Protection: UPCA Nepal has peer educators to advocate for child rights in the flood affected area. This work is on going.

Plan Nepal has conducted training on advocacy on child protection. Basic psycho-social counselling training was also conducted to 27 FCHV for 7 days. Nine Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) from each VDC were selected for this training.

Livelihood Programmes: MEDEP has started a boutique training program for 90 participants from 3 VDCs. 36 individuals completed Zetropha (extracting diesel fuel from plants) training. Zetropha training was only conducted for participants from the Red Zone. Likewise, MEDEP is conducting 8 trade related trainings for 219 participants. DEPROSC has started to distribute food to all participants (food for training). 61 MT of rice and 7.6 MT of lentil were distributed to the participants. 21 MT rice and 2.6 MT lentil have been given to Face bud, a local NGO. After completion of training and fish ponds, Face bud will distribute the food.

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands in Nepal has been supporting community mobilization and income generation to communities in the surrounding areas of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. After the return of displaced, the project has reformed the community groups. There are 60 user groups in 3 VDCs now. The Wetlands project has constructed 6 fish ponds. It has also distributed fishlings to the community.

Shelter/NFI: The 2 sites (for the identification of the land for Koshi flood affected landless) were visited on the 6 September 2009. CDO, ACDO, LDO, government line agencies, UNDP and UNHABITAT are meeting to plan the shelter support.

Diarrhoea Outbreak-MWR/FWR:

The Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak is under control. The Ministry of Health and Population confirmed 364 diarrhoea related deaths and 62,839 cases reported within 219 diarrhoea affected Village Development Committees (VDCs) of 22



Demonstration of ORS Preparation

districts however deaths were not reported from 3 affected districts- Dhading, Makawanpur and Banke.

From the beginning of the outbreak, Save the Children (SC) has been working with local government and WASH cluster member to improve WASH behaviour in seven most affected districts in Mid and Far Western Region. SC has mobilized over 3000 volunteers including five WASH professionals. The program has reached 231,436 people from 40,951 households in 46 most vulnerable VDCs. SC, through its partner organizations, has conducted 1,500 demonstration sessions to promote hand washing, preparation of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) and water treatment methods. Moreover, SC has distributed 20,000 packets of ORS, 10,000 bottles of water guards and 5,000 soaps among affected households of project area. The programme will continue in the same districts until December this year.

NATIONAL CLUSTER UPDATES

Food Security

The protracted food insecurity in 13 Far and Mid Western districts further deteriorated in the past three weeks as the Nepal Food Corporation (NFC) had not delivered the allocated quantity of the rice to the district food depots. The north-eastern part of Bajura District in Far Western region is suffering from rice shortages, and local people including CA members have been demanding an adequate supply of rice. According to the District Agriculture Development Office (DADO), only an estimated 100 families in different 10 VDCs rely on their own production, while the rest depend on the NFC. Bajura district needs 21,141 MT rice annually, as the District annual production is only 15,199 MT. The District Food Security Network (DFSN) has warned that there will be severe food insecurity in the district's highly food insecure VDCs if the rice is not delivered on time.

According to the Regional Agriculture Directorate, the MWR hilly Districts saw a 40 % decline in the production of winter crops earlier this year. Before Dashain, the DFSN in Kalikot met and identified that 12 of their 30 VDCs are highly food insecure. In addition, the food stocks in the District have started drying up, and if the Karnali highway is not repaired within a month, the people will start facing food commodity shortages due to the lack of replenishment of the food stock. The DFSN has also predicted a decline in the district's rice production as the late onset of the monsoon delayed the rice cultivation, and blast diseases also affected the paddy crops.

Protection

On 31 August and 1 September, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR), with support from OHCHR, organized a two-day cluster consultation in Dang district on the proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Approximately 50 participants, including the State Minister of Peace and Reconstruction, government officials, civil society members and conflict victims from Dang, Salyan, Rukum, Rolpa and Pyuthan districts participated in the consultation. The consultation included training sessions on human rights and humanitarian law, introduction to transitional justice and a documentary on such commissions established in other countries.

To commemorate the victims of the violent incidents in Kapilvastu of September 2007, various activities including peace rallies, a theatre play, and speeches were held in Chandrouta VDC from 17 to 18 September. The event was attended by spiritual and religious leaders, civil society organizations and government representatives. OHCHR, while acknowledging the efforts undertaken by civil society to foster social harmony, urged the government to go ahead with the legal proceedings in order to bring the perpetrators of the crimes committed in September 2007 to justice.

Agriculture and Livestock

In September, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been resuming field activities, especially those entailing the distribution of agricultural inputs, following the end of the monsoon.

In the 6 districts of Western Region, a monitoring mission was carried out following the completion of a project which targeted 30,000 farmer families. Specifically, paddy performance and maize and vegetable production deriving from the seeds distributed by FAO, were assessed. In the hilly districts

where maize seeds were distributed to farmers, it was observed that the improved white and yellow varieties had a much better performance compared to the traditional ones. This was mainly due to the enhanced resistance to lodging, a common problem in the area, as well as the increased size of the cobs.

In the Mid Western Region, during the month of September, FAO has been distributing 134 MT of improved wheat seeds varieties for the winter cereal season. In addition to these, the 15,000 targeted farmer households also received composite packages of winter vegetable seeds comprising the following species: radish, onion, cabbage, broccoli, carrot, cauliflower, broad leaf mustard, bean, pea and turnip. Under the same programme, galvanized iron sheets for the construction of goat sheds were also distributed to selected farmers.

As part of FAO's Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (IFSP), 3.41 MT of vegetable seeds have been distributed to 5 500 flood affected families in Kanchanpur and Kailali districts in the Far Western Region of the country. The same beneficiaries also received wheat seeds which will be planted towards the end of October with the intent of rehabilitating the agricultural sector, increasing local food availability and hence the household's food security status.



A FAO beneficiary from Arghakhanchi district with some recently harvested maize cobs.

Avian Influenza Support Programmes

Through a regional project funded by the United States Government, FAO has conducted a regional workshop on the value chain analysis in poultry production and marketing in the context of cross border trading. The workshop included participants from Bangladesh, India and Nepal and was conducted by FAO staff from Headquarters and the Regional Office for the Asia-Pacific. The workshop contributed to strengthening cross-border activities among Bangladesh, India and Nepal to control cross border spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza. In addition to tackling issues such as the value chain risks, animal health aspects and the value chain as a

tool for disease management and control, participants also visited specific locations along Nepal's eastern border with India so as to inspect quarantine check points, meet with staff from the Department of Livestock Office (DLS) and visit commercial poultry farms.



Recovering from Flood: Communities growing the melons in the Bank of River in Urma VDC

Disaster Preparedness

In September, the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) in Dadeldhura distributed NPR 600,000 of relief funds to landslide and flood affected families in the district. The DDRC plans to provide additional livelihood support to families whose houses were damaged in the monsoon floods and landslides. According to their assessment, 97 families were badly affected and temporarily displaced during the monsoon period.

By Dashain, the flood-affected populations in Kailali and Kanchanpur had returned to their homes, but for many, the recovery process still lies ahead. The communities in the southern VDCs of Kailali and Kanchapur Districts were most affected, and the crop fields -- in particular near the streams and rivers in Dhansighpur, Nayaranpur, Bhajani, and Hashuliya VDCs in Kailali District -- were covered in sedimentation. Many people in these communities rely upon farming as their main source of income. Economic migration is common for the adult male population in the flood-affected areas.

Health/HIV/AIDS Updates

According to Federation of National HIV/AIDS (FNH/A), in Rukum 25 persons (12 women and 13 men) of thirteen VDCs; had died due to HIV/AIDS. In Rukum and other hilly districts of MWR and FWR men are compelled to go to India and third countries to earn money and lack of awareness and education they trapped in HIV- AIDS. FNH/A are also initiating

awareness programmes for Rukum and investigating hidden cases at the community level.

On 12 September, dozens of health post services were affected due to lack of health workers, transportation and electricity problem in Salyan district.

Influenza A - H1N1 Virus

There were 36 confirmed cases reported by Ministry of Health and Population. All cases received Tamiflu and have recovered. Health screening at the major entry points is on-going. Guidelines on who should be tested, hospitalized and receive anti-virals were prepared and widely disseminated. Laboratory confirmation is done in National Public Health Laboratory.

COORDINATION

Natural Calamities-Monsoon Update-October

OCHA has issued a separate situation report on recent floods and landslides in the Far and Mid Western Regions.

Note: OCHA announces the arrival of Ms. Jennifer Brav, Head of Sub-Office in Nepalgunj and Mr. Andrew Martin, Head of Sub-Office Biratnagar.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ MEETINGS

- 7 October: Contact Group Meeting, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, UN Conference Room
- 9 October: Operational IASC meeting, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, OCHA Conference Room
- 12 October: IASC Principal meeting, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm, OCHA Conference Room
- 13 October: Peoples symposium on DRR, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Word Trade Center (open invitation)
- 14 October: Peoples Rally on DRR, 8:00 am – 9:30am, New Road
- 14 October: Disaster Risk Reduction Symposium with GoN and UN Special Representative on Risk Reduction, 14:00 – 5:30 pm, Hyatt Hotel (RSVP requested)

Disclaimer: The information in this report is consolidated from media, UN, NGO, and other humanitarian partners, subject to availability of data. Although OCHA aims to confirm reports independently, occasional factual inaccuracies can occur. For inputs, questions or comments please contact: Rita Dhakal Jayasawal, National Coordination Officer on ph. 9851072938, dhakal@un.org

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Visit the Nepal Information Platform at <http://www.un.org.np>

- 15 October, 2009: Emergency Health and Nutrition Working Group Meeting, 10:00 am – 11:30 am, UNICEF meeting room

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 August
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=667>
- Nepal: Reports of Bandhs / Blockades - 1 to 31 August
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=668>
- Nepal: Operational Space- 1 to 31 July, 2009
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=669>

RECENT REPORTS AVAILABLE:

On behalf of IASC Nepal, a Multi-sectoral Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) webpage has been created on UN Nepal Information Platform. Please visit UN Nepal Information Platform for more details.

<http://www.un.org.np/resources/mira/>

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

- UN Report: UNDAF Annual Report 2008
http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=554
- WFP: The Cost of Coping
http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=551
- Carter Center: First Interim Report (also in Nepali)
http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=552
- IDP Working Group: Distant from Durable Solutions - Conflict Induced Internal Displacement in Nepal
http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=553