

SITUATION UPDATE AND ANALYSIS: RAUTAHAT FLOODING

Prepared by: Campaign Nepal for Research and Development | As of 2 & 3 October 2024



As of October 2-3, 2024, Rautahat District is confronting the aftermath of severe flooding that occurred in September. This update provides an overview of the ongoing relief and response efforts following an Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) conducted by the District Administration Office (DAO). The assessment has identified significant impacts across all local government units, particularly in several municipalities.

CURRENT SITUATION ANALYSIS

AFFECTED AREAS

The assessment has identified the following critically affected municipalities:

- Brindaban Municipality: 1
- Gadhimai Municipality: 3, 6
- Durgabhagwati Rural Municipality: 1 to 5
- Rajdevi Municipality: 1, 3, 4, 6, 8
- Madhav Narayan Municipality: 6 to 9
- Gaur Municipality: 2, 3, 5, 8
- Ishanath Municipality: 1, 3, 9
- Maulapur Municipality: 1, 3, 4
- Katahariya Municipality: 1, 4, 6, 9
- Baudhimai Municipality: 2
- Fatuwa Bijaypur Municipality: 1, 8
- Paroha Municipality: 2, 3, 4
- Garuda Municipality: 5
- Dewahi Gonahi Municipality: 1, 2, 4, 5
- Rajpur Municipality: 1, 4, 5
- Yamunamai Rural Municipality: 1 to 5
- Gujara Municipality: 1, 3

The flooding in September has led to significant disruptions throughout Rautahat District, worsening existing vulnerabilities within the community.

Status of Infrastructure and Services in Affected Areas	Quantity
School Buildings	30
Bridges and Roads	7
Health Posts/Health Centers	11
Crop Land (in Bighas/Planting)	40,100
Arable Land (in Bighas/Planting)	62,100
Livestock	35
Small Shops	752
Fish Ponds	50
Others (Offices of Nepal Police and APF)	15

The ongoing assessment indicates extensive damage to infrastructure and services, impacting educational facilities, health services, and local economies. With thousands displaced, immediate needs include access to clean water, food, and medical assistance. The combination of damaged crops and livestock has heightened concerns over food security in the coming weeks.

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Assistance from International and Local Entities

International organizations such as Oxfam, World Vision, and UNICEF are actively providing essential services, particularly food and non-food items, to specific areas affected by the floods. These efforts are critical in addressing immediate humanitarian needs.

Additionally, local politicians, particularly parliamentarians, are contributing to relief efforts by supplying materials and resources to their respective constituencies.

While the District Administration Office (DAO) and local governments are facilitating these relief efforts, their capacity to implement substantial actions has been limited, necessitating further support from various stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of the response.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF RESPONSE EFFORTS

Despite these efforts, the current response is inadequate when compared to the scale of damage indicated by the IRA. Many international and local NGOs appear to be operating on an ad hoc basis, rather than coordinating their efforts effectively. The long-discussed coordinated response has yet to be implemented, with many organizations lacking budget allocations for disaster response. Consequently, assistance tends to be concentrated in areas that these organizations favor, rather than being distributed equitably based on need.

IMPACT SUMMARY

- **Total Affected Households:** 11,921
- **Total Affected Population:** 56,974
 - **Male:** 27,584
 - **Female:** 29,390
- **Total Displaced Households:** 2,042
- **Total Displaced Population:** 6,310

The delay in response to the flooding crisis is particularly concerning, as it raises the risk of severe public health issues, including outbreaks of waterborne diseases and hygiene-related problems. Prolonged exposure to unsanitary conditions may lead to increased incidents of diseases such as cholera and dysentery, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly.

Food security remains a pressing concern that requires immediate resolution. The combination of damaged agricultural land and delayed humanitarian assistance threatens the livelihoods of many families, potentially resulting in malnutrition and food scarcity. Additionally, the interruption of educational services due to damaged school infrastructure jeopardizes the long-term development prospects of children in affected communities.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

However, based on its observation and monitoring to the situation and response, Campaign Nepal would like to put forth the following recommendations

1. **Support for Vulnerable Populations:** Ensure pregnant women and new mothers receive dignity kits and nutritious food to support their health during this critical period.
2. **Aid for Dalit Communities:** Provide food packages and hygiene kits to Dalit communities, given their heightened vulnerability.
3. **Temporary Shelter Provision:** Supply families whose homes have suffered extensive damage with tarpaulins and makeshift tents to protect against adverse weather conditions.
4. **Establishment of a Coordinated Response Mechanism:** Develop a unified approach among all responding organizations to ensure equitable distribution of aid and effectively address the needs of the most affected areas.
5. **Focus on Health and Education:** Implement immediate interventions to provide healthcare services to prevent disease outbreaks and establish emergency education programs to ensure children can continue their learning amidst the crisis.



This photo captures the aftermath of the recent flooding along the Lal Bakaiya River, specifically in Ward Number 3 of Paroha Municipality, which has wreaked havoc on the local landscape, affecting numerous households and displacing families from their homes. The once-fertile agricultural land is now submerged, posing a significant threat to food security in the area.

Campaign Nepal is working closely with local authorities and stakeholders to continue monitoring the situation and mobilizing relief efforts in the affected areas. For more information or to offer assistance, contact us at: contact@campaignnepal.org | 9851140675