

SITUATION UPDATE AND ANALYSIS: RAUTAHAT FLOODING

Prepared by: Campaign Nepal for Research and Development | As of 1 October 2024



OVERVIEW:

Heavy rainfall from September 26 to 28, 2024, has led to widespread flooding in Rautahat district due to the overflow of the Bagmati and Lalbakaiya rivers. The floods have severely impacted lives, property, agricultural crops, and infrastructure across multiple municipalities. To address the crisis, the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) is coordinating the immediate relief and response efforts.

A meeting of the DDMC was held on October 1, 2024, under the chairmanship of Mr. Hiralal Regmi, Chief District Officer, to assess the damage and outline the necessary steps to address both the immediate needs and long-term recovery efforts. The meeting was attended by chiefs of all the local governments, relevant district level government authorities and stakeholders, including I/NGOs and private sector.



Recording the data of damage from Katahariya Municipality

This situation update prepared by Campaign Nepal summarizes the key decisions and actions from the DDMC meeting and provides an insightful analysis.

Key Decisions from the DDMC Meeting

1. Condolences and Sympathy

The committee expressed deep condolences for the loss of life and missing persons due to the floods and extended heartfelt sympathy to affected families. Public cooperation and patience were urged to aid in the relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction processes.

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2. Early Warning and Appreciation of Efforts

The committee acknowledged the swift actions taken by security personnel, community members, journalists, and local representatives, which helped mitigate further damage. Early warning systems, including miking and communication through media, were activated across the district, and rescue operations remain ongoing.

3. Immediate Relief Coordination

Local governments and disaster management committees have been tasked with providing urgent relief to displaced and affected families. The DDMC called for coordination among the organizations providing relief to ensure an organized and efficient response. All relief efforts must be approved and managed in collaboration with the local disaster committees to avoid duplication of resources.

4. Health and Sanitation Measures:

To prevent disease outbreaks in flood-affected areas, the DDMC's meeting decided to deploy the health teams comprising public and private health workers with essential medicines from today. Efforts are being made to ensure access to clean drinking water in collaboration with local authorities and NGOs. This is critical to maintaining public health in the aftermath of the flooding.

5. Preliminary Damage Reporting

Local governments, with the support of police units and organizations like the Nepal Red Cross Society and NGOs, have been tasked with providing preliminary reports on the damage to human lives, property, crops, livestock, and infrastructure. This information is vital for directing resources and aid where it is most needed.

6. Public Infrastructure Repairs

The government offices responsible for river control, road infrastructure, and irrigation have been directed to submit detailed reports on the damage caused by the floods within **seven** days. Immediate measures will be taken to initiate the repair and reconstruction of damaged embankments, roads, bridges, and other public infrastructure.

7. Agricultural and Livestock Losses

The Agriculture Knowledge Center and other relevant departments are coordinating efforts to assess the losses in agriculture and livestock. This data will guide future recovery efforts to support farmers and rebuild the agricultural sector in the district.

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8. Availability of Essential Goods

The Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) has been requested to ensure the steady supply of daily essentials like food and water, which have been disrupted by the floods.

9. Riverbed Management and Embankment Strengthening

To prevent further damage, the committee recommended regulating the bed levels of the Bagmati and Lalbakaiya rivers. Siltation has caused embankments to collapse in several locations, heightening the risk of future floods.

10. Relocation of River Control Office

The DDMC requested the relocation of the Bagmati and Lalbakaiya River Control Office from Parwanipur in Bara District, to Rautahat District, which has been the most severely affected. This move would enhance response capabilities and improve flood management in the future.

11. Financial Aid for Relief Efforts

Local governments will receive an immediate allocation of NPR 200,000 for the distribution of relief, with approval from the District Disaster Management Committee. Additionally, NPR 5.2 million from the District Disaster Management Fund has been allocated as compensation for the families of victims who lost their lives in a previous landslide incident in July 2024.

Meanwhile, the DDMC meeting also endorsed the decision made by the meeting of the WASH cluster held on 30 September 2024.



Road connecting Jingadwa Belchhuwa village to other areas got damaged due to flooding

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Current Situation and Challenges

The situation remains critical as several areas of the district continue to be submerged. Floodwaters have disrupted access to certain areas, limiting the reach of relief teams and slowing rescue operations.

- **Displacement:** Thousands of families have been displaced across multiple municipalities, with many currently housed in temporary shelters. Immediate needs include food, shelter, clean drinking water, and medical care.
- **Health Risks:** The stagnant floodwaters pose a high risk of waterborne diseases, with health teams working around the clock to provide necessary medical assistance and prevent the spread of illnesses.
- **Livelihood Impact:** Agriculture and livestock, vital to the livelihoods of many in Rautahat, have been severely impacted. The destruction of crops and the loss of livestock are creating a pressing food security concern for affected families.



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Next Steps and Recommendations

- **Strengthening Coordination:** Efforts will continue to be made to streamline the distribution of relief, ensuring resources reach the most affected communities. Coordination between local governments, security forces, and humanitarian organizations is essential for an effective response.
- **Infrastructure Repair:** Immediate attention will be given to repairing key infrastructure such as roads, embankments, and bridges to restore access to affected areas and facilitate the delivery of relief supplies.
- **Support for Agriculture:** In the medium to long term, rebuilding the agricultural sector and supporting affected farmers will be critical to restoring livelihoods and ensuring food security.
- **Ongoing Monitoring:** The District Coordination Committee will oversee relief and rehabilitation efforts, ensuring that aid is effectively delivered and that the rebuilding process is conducted transparently and efficiently.

Support for Vulnerable Groups

- **Pregnant Women and New Mothers:** Special attention should be given to pregnant women and new mothers, ensuring they receive dignity kits and nutritious food to support their health and well-being during this crisis.
- **Dalit Communities:** The Dalit communities, who are among the most adversely affected, should be prioritized for assistance, receiving food packages and hygiene kits to meet their immediate needs.
- **Temporary Shelter for Displaced Families:** Families whose homes were damaged by the floods should be provided with tarpaulins and makeshift tents to ensure their protection from the elements and provide a semblance of stability during the recovery process.

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 the assistance, contact us at: contact@campaignnepal.org | +977-9851140675