

Alert note

Nepal- Central Nepal, Flash Flood, 27 August 2026

Completed by: ACT Nepal Forum

Date completed: 27 August 2026

Forum: ACT Nepal Forum

Type of emergency: Flash Flood rapid onset

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 26 August 2026

Funding Survey

If the forum indicates a plan to launch an appeal, we request funding members to please fill out this [survey form](#) which will help the **Emergency Steering Committee** assess the funding environment for this response. Please respond to this survey *within 24 hours of Alert publication*.

1. The nature of the emergency

On 26 August 2026, a devastating and sudden-onset flash flood occurred in the Bhote Koshi River, following a powerful surge of water, sediment, ice, rocks, and debris from the upstream Himalayan catchment in Tibet/China, reportedly associated with a major ice-and-rock avalanche/landslide. The flood rapidly travelled downstream through the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river systems, severely affecting communities in Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Gorkha and Dhading, including settlements, market places and travellers in and around the Rasuwa–Gosaikunda area, while posing continuing risks to downstream communities towards Gorkha, Chitwan, Nawalparasi and along the Trishuli and Narayani corridor. The sudden and high-intensity flooding caused extensive loss of life and widespread destruction of homes, settlements, business houses, agriculture farm, roads, bridges, hydropower facilities, Nepal-China border custom and immigration facilities, and other critical infrastructure, with many people still missing or out of contact. Based on the NDRRMA situation briefing, the event constitutes a *large-scale and catastrophic emergency* requiring a coordinated national and international humanitarian response. The Government of Nepal has declared an emergency in the most affected districts and mobilized additional resources for relief and rescue operations. The situation remains highly dynamic, with the full extent of casualties, displacement, damage, humanitarian needs, and response gaps still being assessed as information becomes available from affected and isolated areas.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information with links if possible)

As of the latest NDRRMA update-5, 165 bodies have been recovered, 73 injured people are receiving treatment, and 823 people are reported missing. Among those missing are 44 Nepal Army personnel, 13 Armed Police Force personnel and 28 Nepal Police personnel who were working in the affected areas. According to the Nepal Tourism Board, 579 people, including 466 foreign tourists and 113 Nepali tourists, who had travelled to Gosaikunda and surrounding areas remain out of contact. The Government has mobilized 7,415 security personnel for search and rescue, and 239 people have so far been rescued by helicopter operations. These figures remain preliminary, and the full scale of casualties, displacement and losses is yet to be established as access to affected areas improves.

The flood has caused extensive destruction of critical infrastructure, including 35 motorable bridges, 45 suspension/suspended bridges and approximately 40 km of motorable roads, which

have been washed away or severely damaged. Homes, settlements, businesses, vehicles, public facilities and other productive assets have also been affected, while damage to transport and communication infrastructure has isolated communities and significantly constrained search, rescue, relief and assessment operations. The destruction of infrastructure along the Kathmandu–Rasuwagadhi/Kerung corridor is likely to have wider implications for trade, tourism, mobility and access to essential services. The extent of damage to livelihoods, hydropower and other assets is still being assessed.

The emergency has particularly severe implications for remote and disaster-prone communities, low-income households, women, children, older people, persons with disabilities, displaced families, daily wage workers, farmers, and people dependent on tourism and local businesses. The sudden loss of family members, homes, livelihoods and essential documents, combined with isolation and limited access to services, is likely to increase protection and humanitarian needs. In the immediate term, affected populations require search and rescue, emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, health care, protection, family tracing and reunification, psychosocial support, and restoration of access and communications. In the medium and longer term, substantial support will be required for displacement management, livelihood recovery, reconstruction of homes and critical infrastructure, restoration of basic services, and community resilience-building. Given the scale of destruction, continuing secondary risks such as landslides and further flooding, and the large number of people still missing, the emergency is likely to develop into a prolonged humanitarian and recovery crisis requiring sustained Government and international humanitarian support.

3. Local and national capacity

The disaster has severely stretched the coping capacity of affected communities, particularly in areas where homes, roads, bridges, communications and other essential infrastructure have been destroyed or isolated. Communities are relying on local authorities, community leaders, volunteers, health facilities and security personnel for immediate evacuation, search and rescue, first aid and relief, while many affected households have limited capacity to cope independently due to the scale and suddenness of the disaster.

Affected families are being evacuating to safer areas and relying on relatives, neighbours, local authorities and community solidarity for shelter and basic support. However, the loss of family members, homes, assets, services and income has severely stretched the coping capacity. Anxiety, grief and uncertainty are widespread, with heightened risks for women, children, older people, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

The Government of Nepal has rapidly activated its national disaster-response mechanisms, with NDRRMA, the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, provincial and local governments, Nepal Army, Armed Police Force and Nepal Police coordinating search, rescue and relief operations. High-level rapid-action teams have been established, helicopters and additional security personnel mobilized, hospitals and blood-transfusion centres placed on alert, and authorities have issued evacuation/high-alert instructions along the Bhote Koshi, Trishuli and downstream river corridors. The Government’s existing national disaster risk-management and emergency-response arrangements, such as the National Disaster Response Framework 2019 and Monsoon Preparedness and Response Action Plan 2026, are being actively implemented, although damaged access routes, communications and the scale of the emergency are placing significant pressure on available national resources. The government agencies have called for support from national and international development and humanitarian organizations.

National humanitarian actors and international organizations are also beginning to support the Government-led response. The UN Cluster system has been activated. WHO is coordinating with the Ministry of Health and partners and has already dispatched emergency medical supplies and multipurpose tents, while international humanitarian organizations are coordinating with NDRRMA,

AIN, the HCT and local partners to assess needs and prepare emergency assistance. The UN has expressed readiness to support the Government-led response, and humanitarian coordination mechanisms involving government, UN agencies, international NGOs, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and other partners are being used to share information, assess needs and identify response gaps. Given the catastrophic scale of the emergency and the continuing constraints on local and national capacity, sustained international support will be required, particularly for emergency shelter, food, WASH, health, protection, family tracing and psychosocial support, as well as early recovery and livelihood assistance. ACT Nepal Forum priority is to complement—not duplicate—the Government-led response through coordinated rapid needs assessment and targeted assistance to the most affected and underserved communities, drawing on ACT members’ local presence, community networks and humanitarian response capacity.

4. Key needs and gaps

The scale of the Bhote Koshi–Trishuli flash flood has created urgent, multi-sectoral humanitarian needs, particularly in Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading and downstream communities that remain isolated or difficult to access. Based on the initial government and humanitarian information, the key sector-wise needs and gaps are:

- **Shelter/NFIs:** Emergency shelter, tarpaulins, blankets, clothing, bedding, kitchen sets, lighting and other essential household items for families whose homes have been destroyed or are unsafe.
- **Food Security:** Immediate food assistance for displaced and isolated households, particularly those unable to access markets or whose livelihoods and food stocks have been lost.
- **WASH:** Safe drinking water, water-treatment supplies, emergency latrines, hygiene materials and restoration of damaged water systems to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases.
- **Health and Nutrition:** Emergency medical services, medicines, trauma care, maternal and child health services, disease surveillance and referral support.
- **Education:** Establishment and operation of temporary learning centre, teaching and learning material support to schools, school uniform, books and stationaries for school going children
- **Protection:** Particular attention is required for children separated from families, women and girls, older persons, persons with disabilities and displaced households. Family tracing, psychosocial support, protection monitoring and replacement of lost documents will be important.
- **Logistics and Access:** Restoration of roads, bridges, telecommunications and other access routes is critical for humanitarian operations. Damaged infrastructure is currently one of the major constraints to reaching affected communities.
- **Early Recovery/Livelihoods:** Assessment and support will be needed for damaged houses, agriculture, livestock, tourism, small businesses and other livelihoods once immediate lifesaving needs are addressed.

Key gaps: The Government, security forces, local authorities, Nepal Red Cross, UN agencies and humanitarian partners are leading the initial response, but the scale of the disaster and access constraints are likely to exceed available local capacity. Significant gaps remain in reaching remote communities and in reliable information on affected and displaced populations, sectoral needs, infrastructure damage and vulnerable groups. For ACT Alliance, the immediate priority should be rapid, coordinated needs assessment and targeted support to underserved communities, particularly in emergency shelter/NFIs, WASH, food, health, education, protection and early recovery, while avoiding duplication with the Government-led response.

The immediate needs mainly include the following:

Dead Body Management Bags, Rescue kits, Gumboots, Pickaxes, Shovels, Gloves, Masks, food and First Aid services

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	X

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
DanChurch Aid (DCA) Nepal	Dhading	Shelter, Cash, Livelihoods, WASH
Finn Church Aid (FCA) Nepal	Rasuwa and Nuwakot	Livelihood, Education, Cash
The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal	Rasuwa and Nuwakot	Food security, Shelter, WASH, Protection, PSS
INF Nepal	Dhading and Nuwakot	WASH, Shelter, Cash, Health
FELM	Sudurpashchim and Karnali Province	Climate, Livelihood, DRR,

6. Potential responses

Given the scale of the emergency and the significant access and information gaps, ACT Alliance should adopt a phased, government-led and needs-based response, focusing on areas and households not adequately reached by existing responders. The response should initially prioritize life-saving assistance and then transition to early recovery and resilience support. UN agencies and international partners are already supporting the Government, including WHO with emergency medical supplies and multipurpose tents, while wider international assistance is being mobilized.

- **Rapid assessment & coordination:** Conduct a joint rapid needs assessment with NDRRMA, local governments, Nepal Red Cross, HCT/cluster actors and local partners; identify underserved communities and avoid duplication.
- **Emergency shelter & NFIs:** Provide tarpaulins, blankets, bedding, clothing, kitchen sets, solar lights and other essential household items to families whose homes are destroyed or unsafe.
- **Food security:** Provide emergency food/cash assistance to displaced, isolated and highly vulnerable households where markets are functioning; coordinate with existing food assistance actors. Immediate
- **WASH:** Support emergency drinking-water supplies, water purification, hygiene kits, temporary latrines and rehabilitation of damaged community water systems. Immediate–4 weeks
- **Psychosocial support:** Provide mobile/outreach PSS services, referrals, psychosocial first aid support.
- **Education:** Establish and operate Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs) in communities where schools have been damaged, destroyed, or are being used as temporary shelters; provide teaching and learning materials, school supplies, books, stationery, school uniforms and other essential education materials to affected school-going children. Support schools to safely resume learning and provide psychosocial and protective support through education activities, with particular attention to children who are displaced, separated from their families, or otherwise at risk of dropping out.

- **Protection:** Establish protection monitoring/referral mechanisms, family tracing and reunification, psychosocial support and targeted assistance and safeguarding for children, women, older people, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.
- **Community-based response:** Mobilize and support local volunteers, CDMCs, faith-interfaith networks and community networks for information dissemination, relief distribution, early warning and identification of vulnerable households.
- **Logistics & access:** Where feasible, support last-mile transportation and distribution to isolated communities in coordination with government and humanitarian logistics actors.
- **Early recovery:** Support repair/reconstruction of damaged homes using safer and climate-resilient approaches; restore livelihoods and community assets through cash-for-work, agricultural inputs, livestock and small-business recovery.
- **Preparedness & resilience:** Strengthen CDMCs, early-warning systems strengthening up-mid-downstream connections, community contingency plans and local disaster preparedness, incorporating lessons from the emergency.

LWF Nepal has deployed its response team to the affected locations with food supplies, emergency shelter kits and non-food items.

DCA is active in Dhading District and has been working in the district since 2015, the work ranging from emergency response, early recovery, longer-term reconstruction to connecting it to longer term development activities. DCA has been among the pioneers on Cash, livelihood and shelter component. DCA will start by responding to the most immediate needs to save lives, for which we will coordinate with the district and local authorities. Followed by that, we will start the early recovery initiatives with Cash, Shelter and Livelihood component.

INF Nepal has deployed two staff members for initial field-level coordination, situation monitoring and identification of priority gaps in Dhading and Nuwakot. Based on the preliminary information and field observations, INF Nepal is initially planning to provide immediate emergency relief support in Dhading and Nuwakot, followed by longer-term recovery support based on the identified needs.

The initial response options include:

- Deployment of 100 tarpaulins from INF Nepal's existing emergency stock for temporary shelter support.
- Provision of 50 blankets from INF Nepal's existing emergency stock to support affected and displaced households.
- Continued field-level assessment to identify additional priority needs and vulnerable households.
- Coordination with local government, Nepal Red Cross Society and other humanitarian actors to avoid duplication and ensure that assistance reaches the most affected communities.
- Exploring additional emergency assistance, including cash-based support, essential household items, WASH and livelihood assistance, based on the findings of the detailed assessment.
- Developing options for early recovery and longer-term livelihood support once the immediate emergency needs are addressed.

The geographical focus for the initial response will be selected affected areas of Dhading and Nuwakot, subject to further verification and assessment.

FCA does not have active partner in the affected districts. Instead, FCA will work together with LWF and support the same local partner on livelihoods recovery, cash transfer and Education in Emergencies. FCA will play the key coordinator role for implementation, M&E and reporting.

FELM has active presence in Nepal and planning to extend its support to the affected communities.

The ACT Nepal forum members are actively engaging with the members in country and in the region for a possible response. Further details will be shared in the appeal documents.