

Nepal GOVERNANCE WEEKLY

Bhotekoshi Flood 2026: A follow through on Rescue, Relief and Humanitarian Response!

It has been nearly two weeks since the massive [Bhotekoshi floods](#). The government continues rescue and search operations in the affected areas, with four survivors rescued alive after more than 10 days. Alongside, the government and civil society continue to provide relief materials to the affected communities and re-connect survivors with families. The international support has also increased, with donations in the Prime Minister's Relief Fund reaching NRs. 11.556 billion in funds.

In hindsight, however, the crisis has highlighted a wider governance challenge: the government's resources and institutional capacity remain limited compared to the scale of loss and damage faced by affected communities. The ongoing monsoon has further increased the risks of additional disasters, placing additional pressure on the government's response capacity.



Chandrika Shrestha, 64, rescued from fourth floor of flood-hit house. (Photo: AP)

Rescue and Emergency Response:

So far, 13,396 people have been rescued, from which 3,962 have been rescued through 973 helicopter flights. A total of 1,355 people are confirmed to have died, while 98 bodies have been verified and handed over to their families. The numbers of security personnel mobilized for the rescue, [relief and recovery missions](#) have increased to 21,402.

The government has authorized emergency burial protocols for more than [400](#) unidentified bodies in Chitwan and Kathmandu to address public health risks and limited morgue capacity. Authorities are ensuring a prior and comprehensive forensic documentation for every individual, including mandatory DNA sampling, unique ID assignment, and recovery location tagging, to preserve the possibility of future identification.

A total of 6,672 injured people rescued from affected areas have received treatment, including 3,379 treated by the Nepal Army and 2,970 by the Armed Police Force. Of these, 323 remain under treatment in different hospitals. [has been recorded](#)

Meanwhile, [1310](#) bodies recovered are listed in the police's database, with 1257 awaiting recognition and handover . (Disclaimer: This link contains disturbing images of recovered bodies)

Relief and Humanitarian Response:

Relief operations are ongoing across 39 holding centers in Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Dhading districts. Nuwakot has 25 centres, Rasuwa has 12 and Dhading has 2, with each accommodating 2,651, 669 and 213 people respectively. Relief materials such as food supplies, hygiene kits, student kits are being transported by helicopters and roads, with government, international and national CSOs and other organizations supporting relief efforts.

The Ministry of Health has deployed 150 health personnel to provide Psychological Counselling for support. The Ministry of Women, Children, Gender and and Sexual Minorities and Social Security have also undertaken free air rescue services for child-bearing women, children and persons with disabilities.

Restoration of electricity and communications is also underway. About 22% of households in Rasuwa are disconnected from the national grid, compared to 3.3% in Nuwakot and 0.2% in Dhading. Three of 120 Nepal Telecom towers and two of 78 Ncell towers remain non-operational.



Source: RSS

Government Response and Coordination:

The Joint Operation Committee of the Nepal Army, supported by the Quick Action Team of the NDRRMA, and the Rapid Action Team of the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, are coordinating information collection, rescue and search operations, and medical support for flood-affected communities. Medical services and blood banks have also been mobilised across affected areas in Rasuwa and Nuwakot

During the House of Representative meeting, Prime Minister, Balendra Shah has highlighted the need to bring Nepal's growing climate-related risks to the attention of the international community, particularly given the country's vulnerability as part of the Himalayan region. He is expected to address the [United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#), emphasizing shared responsibility and stronger measures to mitigate and manage the impacts of climate change. He is set to visit from [September 22 to 25](#).

The National Planning Commission has also established a Damage Assessment Committee to prepare a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment report in six weeks, detailing the physical damage, economic losses, impacts on affected communities.The [report](#) is expected to identify key areas of priorities for short-term and long-term recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Financing and Support for Recovery:

As of 5th September, 2026, NRs 11.556 billion in funds have been generated through the PM Relief fund, among which NRs 8.625 billion are across nine commercial banks and USD 1.98 million are deposited in the dollar accounts at Himalayan Bank and Laxmi Sunrise Bank. NRs. [1 billion](#) has already been given to the flood affected victims.

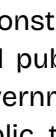
International assistance has also increased, with countries including Australia, India, South Korea, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China, the United States, Qatar, Switzerland providing [technical and financial assistance](#).

International specialists include 35 Indian personnel, two Chinese specialists operating thermal drones in Upper-trishuli-1 Hydropower tunnels. 64 South Korean rescuers have also arrived in Nepal to support scouting and relief operations through drone technology.

Immediate Challenges

Challenges	What It Looks Like	Solution
 Discrimination in aid distribution	Women, persons with disabilities, minorities, and economically marginalized can be excluded or deprioritized in relief distribution.	Gender-responsive and inclusive aid design, based on disaggregated data and identified needs.
 Loss of land & identity documents	Loss of IDs, records, infrastructures can prevent affected families from returning home or access to services.	Establish digital records and accessible mechanisms to record and verify losses and identity claims.
 Disease outbreaks and health risks	Contaminated water, damaged sanitation and unsafe conditions while inadequate dead body management can lead to increased public health risks.	Rapid and WASH-based health responses; dignified body recovery, identification, safe temporary storage or burial.
 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and psychological distress	Displacement, overcrowded shelters increase risks of GBV; while loss, guilt and uncertainty can cause psychological distress to affected people.	Provide protection and psychosocial support alongside relief efforts with safe space and referral mechanisms.
 Loss of livelihoods and market access	Damages to farms, business and jobs of both directly and indirectly affected people,with added disruption to market, roads and basic necessities.	Revival of market access with targeted financial and employment support to sustain livelihoods of affected families.
 Lack of security and coordination	Unclear and overlapping commands, added with weak coordination could increase vulnerability of aids and survivors.	Active Emergency operations centers with a clear chain of command alongside local government and stakeholders.
 Victim abuse and demeaning	Multiple instances of flood victims and their families who criticize the rescue and relief efforts being demeaned and abused online by party and government supporters.	A 10-person team has already been mobilized by the Cyber-bureau to investigate such cases. Another solution could be the ruling party condemning such activities and cancelling memberships of involved members.

Long-Term Challenges

Challenges	What It Looks Like	Solution
 Long term trauma and psychosocial distress	Survivors face immense grief and trauma; children are orphaned; families could remain separated.	Emphasize on continuous psychosocial care, counselling, treatment and social protection services.
 Public Trust Erosion	Delay in relief, unequal recovery efforts can fuel frustration among survivors along with distrust in authorities.	Maintain transparency in publicizing reports of PMDRF, recovery progress and outcomes and share accurate, timely and sensitive information.
 Prolonged Displacement	Families could be compelled to live in temporary shelters or unsafe conditions without clear pathways to permanent/secure housing.	Support in re-building risk-informed, locally appropriate and detailed resettlement plans.
 Disrupted education & lost guardianship	Damaged schools and prolonged separation from caregivers interrupt children's education and protection.	Restore schools and essential services with extra care to child protection.
 Loss of Employment and Economic Security	Loss of assets, jobs and capacity to engage can cause households into aid dependency or cause heavy debt.	Supports to restore livelihoods and recover businesses with resilient insurance and economic schemes.
 Geographic and Social Inequality	Remote and marginalized communities face added barriers to recovery, widening pre-existing inequality over time.	Resources and fund allocations based on vulnerability and geographical needs should be tracked and systematised through disaggregated data.

Conclusion:

The Bhotekoshi floods demonstrate that disaster response must extend beyond rescue and immediate relief towards inclusive, accountable and resilient recovery. Recovery efforts must address not only physical reconstruction, but also livelihood losses, prolonged displacement, disrupted education, psychosocial distress and public health risks. Transparent allocation of relief funds, disaggregated data, clear coordination among government agencies and meaningful engagement with affected communities will be essential to rebuilding public trust. The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment should therefore inform recovery that reduces existing vulnerabilities rather than simply restoring what was lost.

At the international level, Nepal should use the disaster to strengthen its call for climate justice and sustained loss-and-damage support. Given Nepal's negligible contribution to global carbon emissions, the scale of climate-induced disasters it faces is deeply disproportionate and unjust. Nepal's position should therefore move beyond seeking short-term aid for rebuilding and recovery, towards demanding long-term climate reparations and greater responsibility from major carbon-emitting nations for the losses and damages borne by vulnerable countries.

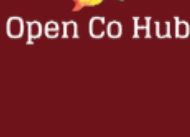
Disclaimer: This information is mostly sourced from the National Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Authority's September 7th ,2026 publication, and some missing information from the report have been linked in the article. The sources other than the NDRRMA report were last verified and updated on on Sep 7, 2026.

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