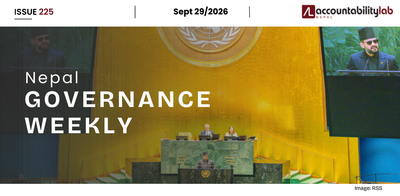
ISSUE 225 | Sept 29/2026 | Accountability Lab Nepal



# Nepal GOVERNANCE WEEKLY

Image: RSS

## Seeking Climate Justice on the World Stage : PM Balendra Shah Addresses UNGA

Prime Minister Balendra Shah addressed the 81st United Nations General Assembly, drawing international attention to the combined pressure that climate change, natural disasters, wars and global supply disruptions are placing on countries like Nepal.

He began by referring to the recent Bhotekoshi-Trishuli floods, presenting the disaster not simply as a tragedy for Nepal but as a warning about the growing consequences of climate change. Melting glaciers, unstable mountain slopes, unpredictable floods and landslides are increasingly threatening roads, bridges, schools, homes, farms and livelihoods. Shah pointed out that Nepal contributes less than 0.1 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet it is facing serious consequences from a crisis it did little to create.

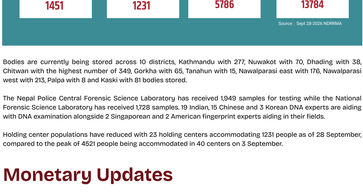
He therefore placed climate justice at the centre of his message. He argued that vulnerable countries need adequate and accessible support for recovery and adaptation, rather than being pushed further into debt. He also called for stronger international cooperation in the Himalayan region and proposed a Himalayan Climate Resilience Mechanism involving Nepal, India and China. Such cooperation, he said, could improve the sharing of satellite data, monitoring of glacial lakes and early-warning systems.

Through the speech, Shah connected Nepal's recent disaster with wider questions about climate justice, global inequality, war and international governance. Rather than presenting the floods as an isolated national crisis, he used them to argue for a global system that gives greater priority to resilience, human security, sustainable development and the concerns of vulnerable countries.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal departed for New York on 20 September for a series of meetings and ministerial engagements. Prime Minister Balendra Shah followed on 22 September to attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), where he addressed the General Debate on 24 September. The Prime Minister was accompanied by a delegation comprising Foreign Minister Khanal, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister Kumar Byanjankar, Foreign Secretary Amrit Bahadur Rai, and other senior government officials. During his visit, Prime Minister Shah also held meetings with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

## Bhotekoshi Flood in Numbers

It has been a month since devastating flash floods struck the country, with the disaster leaving a heavy toll of deaths and missing people. Today, the total number of confirmed deaths stands at 1451, of whom 111 bodies have been handed over to their families, while 1,292 are being kept in accordance with prevailing laws. Search operations are still ongoing for 5,786 people reported missing, with authorities continuing efforts to locate and recover those unaccounted for.




Bodies are currently being stored across 10 districts, Kathmandu with 277, Nuwakot with 70, Dhading with 38, Chitwan with the highest number of 349, Gorkha with 65, Tanahun with 15, Nawalparasi east with 178, Nawalparasi west with 213, Palpa with 8 and Kaski with 81 bodies stored.

The Nepal Police Central Forensic Science Laboratory has received 1,949 samples for testing while the National Forensic Science Laboratory has received 1,728 samples. 19 Indian, 15 Chinese and 3 Korean DNA experts are aiding with DNA examination alongside 2 Singaporean and 2 American fingerprint experts aiding in their fields.

Holding center populations have reduced with 23 holding centers accommodating 1231 people as of 28 September, compared to the peak of 4521 people being accommodated in 40 centers on 3 September.

## Monetary Updates

The total loss from the disaster towards the economy and physical infrastructure across five districts; Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha and Chitwan stands upwards of USD 2.695 million and reconstruction and recovery needs have been assessed to be around USD 4,776 million. The disaster effects and recovery needs are equivalent to 6.69% and 11.84% of Nepal's preliminary estimated nominal GDP.

### Rasuwa–Bhotekoshi flood: official update on contributions received & government initiatives

**Total contributions**
**Received NPR 15,54,20,01,339**

**Fund usage Disbursed from the fund**
**NPR 1,00,00,00,000**

### NDRRMA allocates additional NPR 67.5 million to 15 local governments

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Uttargaya Rural Municipality** Rs . 75 lakh | **Gosainkunda Rural Municipality** Rs . 2 crore | **Kalika Rural Municipality** Rs . 30 lakh | **Aamachhodingmo Rural Municipality** Rs . 20 lakh | **Bidur Municipality** Rs . 3 crore 50 lakh |
| **Belkotgadhi Municipality** Rs . 75 lakh | **Kispang Rural Municipality** Rs . 25 lakh | **Tarkeshwar Rural Municipality** Rs . 50 lakh | **Galchhi Rural Municipality** Rs . 30 lakh | **Siddhalek Rural Municipality** Rs . 20 lakh |
| **Gajuri Rural Municipality** Rs . 20 lakh | **Benighat Rorang Rural Municipality** Rs . 20 lakh | **Gandaki Rural Municipality** Rs . 20 lakh | **Devghat Rural Municipality** Rs . 20 lakh | **Aanbukhaireni Rural Municipality** Rs . 20 lakh |

Source: https://mofnepal.github.io/rasuwa-flood-update/en/rescue/

From a sector perspective, the infrastructure sector was most severely impacted with total effect estimation around NPR 19,004 crore and reconstruction needs around NPR 47,357 crore, which is more than USD 3,326 million. This includes impact to 13 hydropower projects with combined capacity of 759.025 MW, five solar power plants with combined capacity of 24.36 MW, one substation, transmission lines and distribution systems, 69 km of damaged roads, 33 destroyed motorable bridges and 68 damaged suspension bridges.

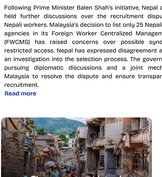
Social sector damage and losses are estimated around NPR 6,787 crore and reconstruction needs are estimated to be around NPR 10,355 crore. This includes 7,570 private houses being damaged with estimated damage of around NPR 6,388.48 crore, 48 public structures, 35 fully damaged and 13 partially damaged with 11 fully damaged and 7 partially damaged schools, 4 completely destroyed healthcare facilities and 3 partially damaged ones. 6 schools in Nuwakot have reopened after cleaning and disinfection and 35 Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) have been established.

The productive sector sustained total effects of NPR 15,037 crore with recovery needs estimated around 5,077.49 crore. Significant losses to commercial and economic activities, livelihoods amounting around NPR 14,620 crore. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and river management costs have been estimated around NPR 9,475 crore with NPR 51.54 crore being identified for debris management.

The contributions received in the Prime Ministers Disaster Relief Fund stands around NPR 15.54 billion, where NPR 9,870.8 million was deposited after the flood. 41.7% has been cleared by Nepal Clearing House Limited, 16.5% from Fonepay, 18% was handed over to the Finance minister, and 23.7% is foreign assistance. NPR 1billion has been used and was transferred to NDRRMA on Bhadra 16.

However, the government's approach to relief distribution has come under scrutiny, particularly regarding its implementation of the "one-door policy," which requires all relief assistance to be channelled through the federal government and the various tiers of administration. While rescue efforts have been commendable, controversies have emerged periodically. As the operation has progressed, its focus has shifted from rescue to recovery, with efforts now primarily centred on retrieving bodies. Meanwhile, the federal government's centralized approach to relief distribution has drawn dissatisfaction from local-level authorities, who argue that it limits their involvement and creates an exclusionary environment that marginalizes them from the distribution process.

## Weekly Snapshot




- The Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority received 40,542 complaints in FY 2025/26, with the federal agencies accounting for 15,512 (37.78%), provincial bodies with 5,305 (12.99%) and the local government with highest complaints of 20,025 (49.03%). Although 156 cases were filed, the conviction rate has declined from the previous year which is attributed to weaker investigations, recurring staff transfers, limited expertise and insufficient evidence to back them. **Read More**

- A ransomware attack on the data center hosting the Trading Management System (TMS) forced Nepal's stock market to close for a day. Servers used by 72 broker companies were affected and only resumed operations the following day to avoid further risks. The Securities Board of Nepal (SEBON) has started an investigation and asked NEPSE to submit a report on the incident. This has raised concerns about the security of investors' data and information within the country's financial system. **Read more**







- The Supreme Court's decision to dismiss internet service providers' petitions against tax assessments could push fixed broadband prices up by at least 50 percent. The ruling requires Telecommunication Service Charges (TSC) to apply to maintenance fees that ISPs had previously separated from internet charges. Providers say they may have to pass on billions of rupees in back taxes and penalties dating to 2018, potentially increasing prices by up to 100 percent. They are seeking government relief to limit the impact on customers.
**Read more**

- Following Prime Minister Balen Shah's initiative, Nepal and Malaysia held further discussions over the recruitment dispute involving Nepali workers. Malaysia's decision to list only 25 Nepali recruitment agencies in its Foreign Worker Centralized Management System (FWCMS) has raised concerns over possible syndication and restricted access. Nepal has expressed disagreement and launched an investigation into the selection process. The government is also pursuing diplomatic discussions and a joint mechanism with Malaysia to resolve the dispute and ensure transparent and fair recruitment.
**Read more**







- A "Long-Term Care Special Plan" for children affected by the Bhotekoshi - Trishuli floods has been introduced in the Parliament. The plan will provide protection, nutrition, healthcare, education to the children until Grade 12 and social security until age 18. It especially covers children who lost or were separated from parents, were injured or became disabled in the floods. The government has also prioritised family reunification, child protection and privacy, while restricting unauthorised movement or relocation.
**Read more**




*Wondering what to read to have a breath of change during your free time? Check this blog by* ***Suvechchha Chapagain*** *which depicts the significance of microgrants or innovative grants to help sustain the creativity, innovation, costs, credibility and confidence of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The blog also cites the juxtaposition of how microgrants support civic actors to act as a catalyst to transform resources and decision-making power on one hand and pose administrative challenges.*

Nepal Governance Weekly is an analytical update of Nepal's current affairs based on media and real sources mining, to sensitize the communities on hot news on various political, economic, governance, and policy issues from the perspective of accountability.

Presented By
Accountability Lab Nepal
Technical support from
Open Co Hub
nepal@accountabilitylab.org
Join us online

Copyright © 2026 Accountability Lab Nepal. All rights reserved.