

SITUATION REPORT # 04- August 29, 2026

Rasuwa Flash Flood 2026 – Operational Update, Resource Mapping, Priority needs and technical support

Highlights

- On the morning of 26 August 2026, a major debris-laden flash flood was triggered in the upper transboundary watershed near the Nepal–China border, northeast of Rasuwagadhi, sending a destructive flash downstream along the Bhoté Koshi–Trishuli–Narayani river system.
- The leading technical hypothesis is an ice/rock avalanche and temporary blockage-and-release in the upper Lhende catchment; earthquake, glacial/supraglacial drainage and compound mechanisms still require evidence-led investigation.
- Road, bridge, power, customs, market and telecommunications impacts are severe. IPPAN reports 14 affected energy projects with a combined 748 MW project footprint; this is different from reported estimates of interrupted generation/supply.
- The Cabinet declared affected local levels disaster-hit areas for three months and directed rescue, free treatment, relief, road/water restoration and resource mobilization.
- To make search, rescue, and relief operations more effective in the flood-affected areas, command posts have been activated, and 14 thematic emergency coordination teams have been mobilized for the restoration of health, communications, roads, and electricity services.
- On the Prithvi Highway, the Muglin–Malekhu section is operational in both directions, while the Malekhu–Galchhi section is operational in one direction. In the Dhading–Trishuli section, four pieces of equipment are being used to clear landslides. Through the alternative route, small vehicles are operating up to Dhading headquarters and Dhunche, Rasuwa.
- Food supplies and other essential non-food relief and rescue materials have been transported from Tribhuvan International Airport by air using an Mi-17 helicopter, as well as by road, towards Dhunche and Uttargaya Rural Municipality in Rasuwa.

1. Situation Overview

On 26 August 2026, a sudden and exceptionally destructive flood affected the Bhotekoshi–Trishuli river system in northern and central Nepal, with particularly severe impacts reported in Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts. The event originated near the Nepal–China border and caused extensive destruction along the river corridor, including settlements, roads, bridges, hydropower facilities, markets and other critical infrastructure.

The exact physical mechanism of the event is still being investigated. Preliminary information indicates that a large mass movement/ice-rock avalanche may have blocked or entered the Lhende River upstream, resulting in a sudden downstream surge. Other possible mechanisms, including a glacial lake outburst, are also being investigated. The assessment should therefore avoid prematurely attributing the disaster to a single hazard mechanism and should incorporate a multi-hazard assessment of the event and its consequences.

The disaster has occurred in an area of high strategic, economic and social importance. The Rasuwa–Trishuli corridor provides access to the Nepal–China border, supports cross-border trade and tourism, hosts hydropower infrastructure, and connects numerous settlements and economic activities. Initial reports indicate extensive disruption of road connectivity, including major damage along the Betrawati–Rasuwigadhi corridor, as well as damage to bridges, hydropower projects and settlements.

The Department of Roads has reported major damage to the road connecting Betrawati to Rasuwagadhi, while several bridges have also reportedly been washed away. The full extent of damage remains under assessment.

The human impact is also still evolving. Official and media reports on the day of the disaster indicate substantial loss of life and several hundred people unaccounted for, including Nepali and foreign nationals. Communication and physical access to several affected locations have been disrupted, making conventional field-based assessment difficult.

Residual Risk Assessment: Upstream Hydrological Hazards

The mitigation of secondary disasters, specifically Landslide-Dammed Lake Outburst Floods (LDOF), is currently our primary strategic defensive priority. High-resolution satellite-based monitoring is being utilized to bypass ground-access limitations and provide real-time early warning data to downstream riverine populations.

Casualties and Search & Rescue (SAR) Update

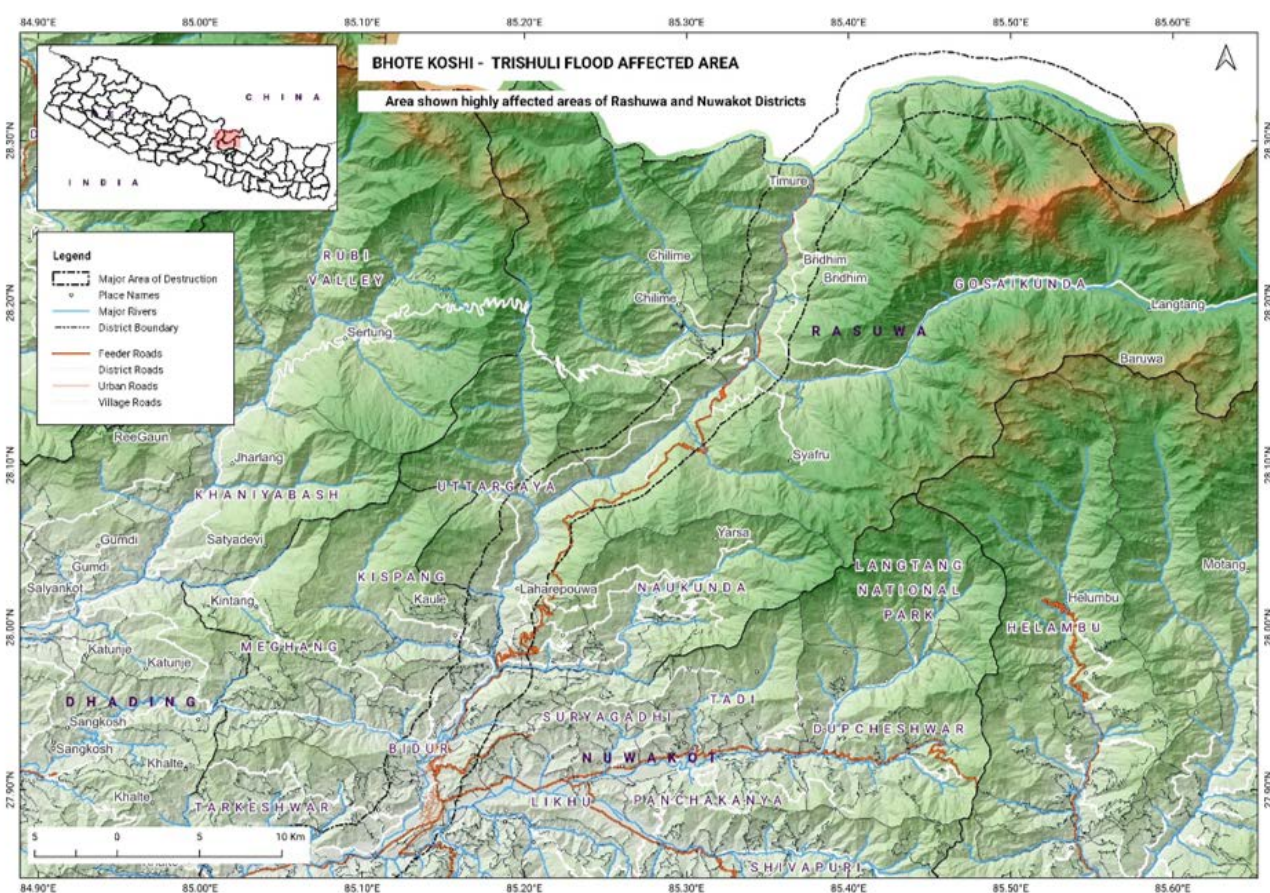
Indicator	Working figure	Interpretation
Deaths	675	Late domestic update; provisional pending consolidated NDRRMA/Police list Dead body find out in Dhading: 45, Nuwakot: 51, Rasuwa: 13, Gorkha: 57, Nawalparasi East: 165, Tanahun: 35, Nawaparasi west: 63 and Chitwan: 246 (with Body Parts) (NDRRMA_SitRep 08 Report 29 August 6:30PM)
Injured	242 reported	injured persons receiving treatment in hospitals, with surgical medical teams also deployed.
Missing	2498	Nepal Police: 27, Nepal Army: 45, Armed Police Force Nepal: 13, Customs Office: 15, Immigration Office: 4 Rasuwa: 562 (reported through DEOC) Nuwakot: 115 (reported through DEOC) Hydropower projects: 133 Makwanpur: 64 (reported through DEOC) Foreign nationals reported missing: 157 Nepali citizens residing abroad who had come to Nepal for travel: 127 Langtang National Park: 3
Security personnel Mobilization	18,708	Nepal Police: 6135, Nepal Army: 8370, Armed Police Force Nepal: 4203
Heli Rescue	7514	From the hydropower project tunnel rescued, 279 people have been rescued by helicopter—191 previously and 88 today. 279 foreign nationals were rescued. A total of 16 helicopters operated by the Nepal Army and private operators have conducted 261 rescue flights/sorties to date.
Damages to Access and Connectivity	~42 km-Road	DOR reported Betrawati–Rasuwigadhi road suffered extensive damage at multiple locations, with several 35 bridge and 45 suspension bridges swept away
Energy assets affected	14 projects / 748 MW footprint	9 operating (354 MW) + 5 under construction (394 MW); not the same as supply loss
Households affected	11,793 households (HHs)	Nuwakot has the highest number of affected households (4,780), followed by Rasuwa (3,733), Dhading (2,430), and Chitwan (850).

2. Geographic impact

The flash flood originated near the Nepal–China border and moved downstream through the Bhotekoshi–Trishuli river corridor. Based on preliminary reports, the following districts and local governments were affected:

The flood caused extensive destruction in Rasuwa District, particularly affecting Uttargaya, Gosainkunda, Kalika, and Aamachhodingmo, including the areas of Timure, Rasuwagadhi, and Syabrubesi. It also affected Nuwakot District, including Bidur, Belkotgadhi, Kispang, and Tarkeshwar, as well as Dhading District, including Galchhi, Siddhalek, Gajuri, and Benighat Rorang. Impacts were also reported in Gandaki Rural Municipality of Gorkha District and Devghat and Aanbukhareni of Tanahun District. The flood caused extensive damage to settlements, roads, bridges, hydropower facilities, markets, schools, and other critical infrastructure.

In view of the exceptional scale and severity of the 26 August 2026 Rasuwa flash flood, the Government of Nepal has declared the affected areas as a disaster emergency area to facilitate an immediate and coordinated response.



Note: This is a preliminary map. It may undergo modifications as the underlying data are updated.

Map 1: Bhotekoshi – Flood affected area (Source: NSET 2026)

Table 1: Impacted Populations in Nuwakot District

Municipality	Deaths	Missing	Injured	Fully Damage Houses	Partially Damage Houses	Displaced HH	Affected HH	Affected Wards	Total Pop	Total HH
Belkotgadhi-5,8,7	0	6	0	125	300	363	443	3	40698	8099
Bidur-1,3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	95	408	185	1017	908	1452	2330	7	54351	12505
Tarkeshwar-4	0	0	0	5	17	22	22	1	15711	3511
Kispang-5	0	0	0	40	28	40	300	1	14861	3340
Total	95	414	185	1187	1253	1877	3095	12	125621	27455

Source: Initial rapid assessment report, Nuwakot 2026 (NDRRMA, 28 Aug 2026)

3. Damages to Hydropower

Multiple hydropower projects along the corridor were reported damaged; press reports cite around eight operational projects (~354 MW combined), including the Rasuwagadhi (111 MW), Sanjen Khola (78 MW) and Upper Trishuli 3A (60 MW) projects. Project-level damage is not independently confirmed. Downstream highway disruption (Prithvi Highway / Muglin–Narayanghat) was warned by authorities.

4. Damage to Schools

- **Rasuwa District (5 Schools):** Timure Community School, and three other boarding schools were severely damaged by the river surge
- **Nuwakot District (7 Schools):** Tribhuvan Trishuli Secondary School, Uttargaya School, suffered catastrophic physical damage. Additionally, the hostel building of Chandeshwar Secondary School and the entire structure of Ramchandra Basic School were completely swept away.
- **Dhading District (8 Schools):** Bageshwari Secondary School, Amaleshwar Gurukul School, and Success Academy School—suffered severe flooding and silt buildup, though no permanent structural collapses were initially reported there.

5. Damage to Hospitals

- **Fully Damaged:** Syafrubesi Health Post, Timure Health Post, Timmure Health Desk
- **Partially Damaged:** Baireni Hospital, Galchi
- **Access Disruptions:** Dhading Hospital, Trishuli Hospital

6. Damages on other Physical and service impacts

Sector	Reported impact	Priority verification/measure
Housing/settlements	Severe destruction reported in Timure and river-edge settlements; verified house count unavailable.	Door-to-door/remote household inventory, safety tagging and displacement registration.
Roads/bridges	Betrawati–Rasuwigadhi corridor and Syafrubesi–border sections reportedly damaged; multiple bridges lost; ground access constrained.	Route reconnaissance, geotechnical clearance, temporary crossings and logistics plan.

Sector	Reported impact	Priority verification/measure
Energy	IPPAN reports 14 affected projects: 9 operational (354 MW) and 5 under construction (394 MW), total footprint 748 MW.	Asset-by-asset safety, generation-loss and grid-stability assessment; controlled restart only.
Telecom	Mobile and backhaul disruption obstructing warning, SAR and tracing.	Portable satellite/VHF, temporary mobile cells, backup power and priority restoration.
Customs/trade	Timure/Rasuwigadhi customs area, warehouses, cargo and vehicles heavily affected; >500 vehicles reportedly present, exact loss unknown.	Secure hazardous areas, inventory cargo/vehicles, preserve records and identify alternate trade logistics.
Health	Local access disrupted; emergency beds and medical teams activated; trauma and medevac demand ongoing.	Facility functionality check, trauma pathway, blood/oxygen/medicines, surveillance and referral transport.
WASH	Water-system damage and contamination are likely but not quantified.	Test sources, chlorinate, provide safe water/storage, emergency sanitation and hygiene support.
Education/public services	Police posts, customs and public facilities reportedly damaged; education disruption not consolidated.	Facility checks, temporary service points, document replacement and continuity plans.
Livelihoods/environment	Trade, tourism, wage labour, agriculture and riverine land exposed; debris and channel change likely extensive.	Market/livelihood assessment, debris plan, river morphology and environmental screening.

7. Response to date

- **Government direction:** affected local levels declared disaster hit for three months; free treatment, evacuation, food/accommodation, infrastructure restoration and recovery financing directed.
- **National coordination:** NDRRMA issued downstream evacuation/high-alert messages and requested helicopter/drone support; district and local mechanisms are coordinating warnings and relief.
- **Search and rescue:** Search and rescue: Nepal Army, Nepal Police, and Armed Police Force (APF) were mobilised for search and rescue operations. 16 helicopters operated by the Nepal Army and private operators conducted 99 rescue flights/sorties, rescuing a total of 4,451 people.
- **Setu App – DOR Duty Coordination & NDRRMA Command Center:** Introduced as a **real-time coordination platform** connecting responders, command centres, and field fleet operators through a single live map to facilitate faster rescue, relief, and emergency response. <https://setu.ndrrma.gov.np/>
- The verified list of persons rescued from various locations has been published on the NDRRMA website under the rescue section: ndrrma.gov.np/np/rescue
- **Health:** hospitals in Kathmandu were placed on alert; 100 emergency beds were allocated at Bir Hospital/National Trauma Centre; WHO prepared basic medicines/equipment and 15 emergency tents.

- **GoN relief financing:** To date, a total of NPR 92.5 million (Rs. 9 crore 25 lakh) has been made available to 15 local governments in the flood-affected districts of Rasuwa, Nuwakot, and Dhading for search, rescue, and relief management.
- **One-door policy:** The Government of Nepal has centralized the collection and distribution of relief funds through designated government channels.
- **Communications:** Nepal Telecom and Ncell announced free voice/data/SMS support in affected areas; physical network restoration remains essential. Toll free number 1234 and 1141 to seek help and information sharing
- **Humanitarian support:** Nepal Red Cross reported blood availability and readiness; Scouts, Lions and some INGOs other responders were included in health/relief coordination and distribution.
- **External support:** India provided relief and medical supplies around 62 tonnes. Nepal also sought assistance from China. Upstream data and technical cooperation are as important as material relief.

8. Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday (August 26)

The decisions were taken at an emergency Cabinet meeting on Wednesday (August 26) following the massive flood in the Rasuwagadhi border area and downstream settlements.

- I. The Cabinet meeting decided to pass a resolution of condolence, expressing deep sorrow over the loss of lives caused by the devastating flood in the Bhotekoshi–Trishuli area. The meeting paid heartfelt tribute to those who lost their lives and extended sincere condolences to the bereaved families. It also decided to give high priority to the search and rescue of missing persons and to provide relief and financial assistance to the affected families in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations.
- II. Under the decisions, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defense have been directed to immediately rescue injured and stranded people and relocate them to safe locations, with Army and private helicopters to be mobilized as necessary. The Home Minister has also been instructed to deploy all resources required for the rescue operation.
- III. The Ministry of Health and Food Safety, the Army and government hospitals have been directed to provide immediate free medical treatment to people injured in the disaster.
- IV. The Ministry of Home Affairs, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority and relevant disaster risk reduction and management committees have been instructed to relocate people whose homes have been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable and arrange food and accommodation for them.
- V. The Cabinet also directed the Ministry of Infrastructure Development to reopen roads blocked by the disaster and arrange necessary drinking water supplies in the affected areas.
- VI. The Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation and the Nepal Electricity Authority have been instructed to restore electricity services disrupted by the flood as soon as possible, while the Ministry of Information and Communication has been tasked with restoring disrupted telecommunications services.
- VII. The government has also decided to provide immediate financial assistance to the families of those killed in the disaster in accordance with prevailing law.

- VIII. Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle has been assigned responsibility for coordinating the mobilization of financial resources required for immediate operations and the reconstruction of damaged public structures and physical infrastructure.
- IX. The Cabinet expressed deep grief over the loss of life and property caused by the flood, paid tribute to those who died, extended condolences to the bereaved families and wished the injured a speedy recovery.
- X. Finally, local levels in disaster-affected districts have been declared disaster crisis-declared areas for three months under Section 32 of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017.

9. Who is doing what-response map

Actor	Reported role/action	Next coordination ask
PM/Cabinet	Policy direction; disaster declaration; free care, relief, restoration and financing mandates	Confirm one national incident commander and twice-daily public operational picture
MoHA / NDRRMA / NEOC	National coordination, warnings, helicopter/drone request, relief oversight	Single casualty/missing registry; common operational map; request/prioritise external support
DHM	River monitoring, warning and source assessment with satellite/cross-border inputs	24/7 basin cell; breach scenarios; formal all-clear criteria and impact-based forecasts
CDOs / DDMCs / local governments / LEOCs	Evacuation, local SAR/relief, public messaging, community coordination	Ward-level affected/displaced lists; safe sites; inclusive distribution and feedback desks
Nepal Army	Aerial/ground SAR, medevac, specialist medical team, logistics	Air-tasking cell, landing-zone survey, night/technical rescue and responder safety
Nepal Police / APF	SAR, perimeter/traffic control, missing-person work, security	Name reconciliation, river search, access control and family liaison
MoHP / HEOC / hospitals	Emergency beds, trauma/referral readiness, medical deployment	Facility functionality, surveillance, mobile teams, MHPSS and continuity of essential care
MoPIT / Department of Roads	Directed to restore roads and water access; road assessment	Geotechnical/bridge teams; emergency route plan; Bailey bridges and resilient design
MoEWRI / NEA / IPPAN / operators	Energy damage reporting and system response	Independent safety inspection, grid contingency, restart protocol and loss assessment
MoCIT / NTA / Nepal Telecom / Ncell	Free services and telecom response	COW/COLT, VSAT, satellite phones, fibre/tower repairs and backup energy
NTB / Tourist Police / Immigration / MoFA	Traveller lists and liaison	Manifest reconciliation, diplomatic updates, privacy-controlled public tracing dashboard
Nepal Red Cross / Scouts / Lions / civil society	Blood readiness and support to health/relief coordination	First aid, relief, restoring family links, volunteers and community feedback

Actor	Reported role/action	Next coordination ask
WHO	Basic medicines/equipment and 15 emergency tents announced	Trauma/public-health support, emergency kits, surveillance and partner coordination
Private helicopter/drone operators	Aircraft supporting rescue and assessment	Unified tasking, safety/deconfliction, imagery standards and data handover
India	Offered humanitarian/relief assistance; consular tracing for Indian nationals	Match offer to Nepal-led priority list: SAR, bridging, communications, medical/logistics
China	Upstream response and bilateral contact; Nepal requested assistance	Real-time upstream data, imagery, joint investigation and warning protocol and supporting tunnel rescue
NPP/ADRF municipal teams in Chitwan	Draft reports LEOC alerts and readiness in Bharatpur, Ratnanagar, Khairahani, Kalika and Madi	Continue last-mile warning, evacuation readiness and feedback to provincial/national systems

Disclaimer

This report consolidates publicly available sources accessed on 29 August 2026. Priority was given to Nepal Government-linked reporting and direct statements, followed by recognised national and international media. Because the event is unfolding, several figures are source- and time-specific. 'Reported' means a credible source published the figure; it does not mean the figure has been independently verified or reconciled by this report.

Annexes 1: Relief Distribution

(Source: NDRRMA Situation Report No. 7, 28 August 2026)

S.N.	District	Local Level	Affected Wards	Amount Distributed
1	Rasuwa	Uttargaya	4	75 lakh
		Gosainkunda	4	1 crore
		Kalika	1	30 lakh
		Aamachhodingmo	2	20 lakh
2	Nuwakot	Bidur	11	1 crore 50 lakh
		Belkotgadhi	3	75 lakh
		Kispang	1	25 lakh
		Tarkeshwar	2	50 lakh
3	Dhading	Galchhi	5	30 lakh
		Siddhalek	4	20 lakh
		Gajuri	4	20 lakh
		Benighat Rorang	6	20 lakh
4	Gorkha	Gandaki	4	20 lakh
5	Tanahun	Devghat	2	20 lakh
		Aanbukhaireni	2	20 lakh

Annexes 2: Relief Required

(Source: NDRRMA Situation Report No. 4, 27 August 2026-10PM)

Cluster	Items Details	Need in Unit	Unit	# no of Required Items
Shelter	Tent	8692	Nos	8692
	Tarpaulin	8692	Nos	8692
	Rope	8692	Roll	26076
	Blanket	39114	Nos	39114
	plastic sheet/black plastic	8692	Roll	17384
	Sleeping Bag	39114	Nos	39114
	sleeping mat/P-foam	39114	Nos	39114
Kitchen	Kitchen Set	8692	Families	8692
	Gas+ Cylinder	8692	Nos	8692
	Plustic Bucket	8692	Nos	26076
	Plustic Mug	8692	Nos	43460
	water container	8692	Nos	8692
Hygiene	Baby kit 0-2 years	1955	Nos	1955
	Baby kit 3-5 years	1955	Nos	1955
	Kishori/Dignity Kit	3130	Nos	3130
	slippers	39114	Nos	39114
	Essential clothing	39114	Nos	39114
	Hygiene Kit	3130	Nos	3130
	Piyush Liquid	8692	Nos	26076
	Family hygiene kit	8692	Nos	8692
	Soap / laundry soap	39114	Nos	78228
	Sanitary pads	3130	Nos	3130

Annexes 2: Relief Required

(Source: NDRRMA Situation Report No. 4, 27 August 2026-10PM)

Cluster	Items Details	Need in Unit	Unit	# no of Required Items
Hygiene	Toothbrush/toothpaste	39114	Nos	78228
	Towel	39114	Nos	39114
	Medicine			
Lighting	Solar pannel	8692	Nos	8692
	Solar Lamp	8692	Nos	8692
	batteries	8692	Nos	8692
Food Items	High-energy biscuits	39114	Pack	782280
	ready-to-eat food	39114	Pack	782280
	Rice	8692	(30 Kg pack)	8692
	Lentils	8693	(20 Kg pack)	8693
	Potatoes	8692	(60 Kg pack)	8692
	Cooking Oil	8692	Litter	26076
	Salt	8692	Pack	26076
	Soybeans	8692	(5 Kg pack)	8692
	Beaten Rice (Chiura)	8692	(5 Kg pack)	8692
	Dry Fruits	8692	Kg	17384
Emergency Transportation	Belly Bridge (50 -70 meter)	30	Nos	30