

Situation Report No. 1

Budhi Gandaki Flood, Gorkha District, Nepal

As of 11 October 2026 (Asoj 25, 2083), 10:30 NPT

Prepared by Bagmati Welfare Society Nepal (BWSN)

1. Summary

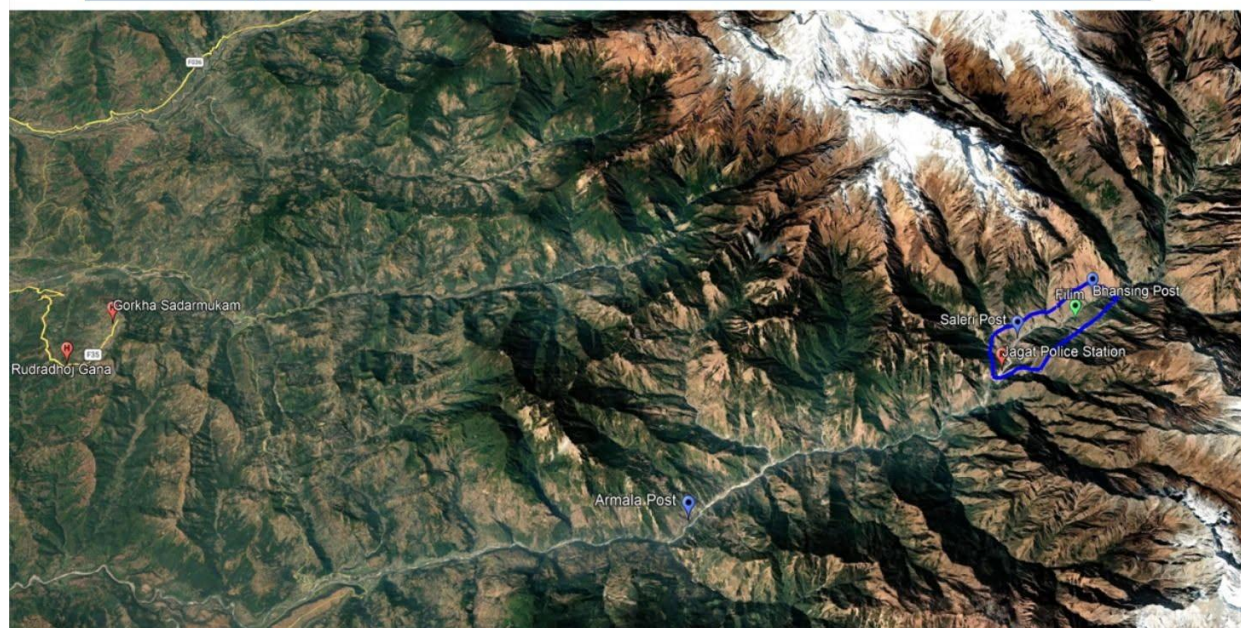
A landslide-dam outburst flood struck the Budhi Gandaki River in Gorkha district before dawn on Sunday, 11 October 2026. No deaths are reported. Four to five herders are out of contact, at least 35 houses were swept away, and at least six bridges have been lost between Chumnubri and Arughat.

The river was still blocking and releasing at its source late in the morning, so a further surge remains possible. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) has put six districts downstream on alert, as far as the Narayani.

Indicator	Reported figure	Reported by
Deaths	None reported	CDO Gorkha; Chumnubri and Dharche chairs
Missing / out of contact	4 herders (official); 5 (local chair)	Asst. CDO Gorkha; Chumnubri chair
Houses swept away	35 (Paiyu and Bagar villages, Chumnubri)	Chumnubri RM vice-chair
Houses at risk or inundated	20–22 at risk (Salleri); 5–7 houses and 5–7 sheds inundated (Machhakhola)	Gorkha police
Bridges lost	At least 6 (3 suspension, 1 Bailey, 2 motorable)	Police, CDO, palika chairs
Schools damaged	1 (Bikas Primary School, Ghattekhol, swept away)	Chumnubri RM vice-chair
Livestock	4 sheds and 15 yak/nak swept away	Asst. CDO Gorkha
Air rescues	6 people (initial report)	Elected Representatives
Peak water level	8.43 m at Arughat, 09:45 (danger level 5 m)	NDRRMA
Districts on alert	Gorkha, Dhading, Tanahun, Chitwan, Nawalparasi East, Nawalparasi West	NDRRMA

Figures are from the first six hours.

बुढीगण्डकी नदीमा आएको बाढीले प्रभावित क्षेत्र



Map 1. Area affected by the Budhi Gandaki flood (outlined), around Jagat, Saleri, Philim and Bhansing in northern Gorkha.

2. What happened

Cause. A dry landslide (not rain-triggered) fell in Chumnubri Rural Municipality ward 6 in upper Gorkha and dammed the river. Accounts place it at Chhekampar, between Lokpa and Chumling, and also describe the Syar Khola and Ugyulung Khola being blocked between Kharong and Ungjulung. When the impounded water broke through, a debris-laden flood ran down the valley. The Chumnubri chief administrative officer said a column of water and spray 200–300 m high was seen at the blockage.

Timing. Local and official accounts differ by up to two hours. The earliest local warning came at about 03:30; police say they were told of the blockage at 05:30.

Time (11 Oct)	Event	Source
~10:00	Arughat market evacuated; one of three spans of the Gorkha–Dhading concrete bridge at Arughat gone	Gorkha police
09:45	Arughat gauge reads 8.43 m, well above the 5 m danger level; NDRRMA alerts six districts	NDRRMA
~08:20	River reported blocked again; flow at Sirdibas almost stopped	Chumnubri CAO
07:30	Flood reaches Soti Bazaar; Soti bridge and sheds swept away	CDO Dharmendra Kumar Mishra
06:15	Water begins flowing from the blockage; riverside residents warned	Nepal Police
05:30	Police informed of the blockage by local hotel operators; teams sent from Sirdibas and Chumchet posts	Nepal Police
~04:25	Flood and landslide from Ugyulung and Syar Khola block the river briefly, then burst	Chumnubri chair Nima Lama
~04:00	Flood enters Paiyu, Bagar, Ghattekhol, Jagat and Salleri; residents flee	Chumnubri vice-chair Laxmi Gurung
~03:30–03:45	Early warning received in Dharche; flood begins about 15 minutes later	Dharche chair Laxman Gurung
Night of 10 Oct	Suspected dry landslide at Chhekampar blocks the river	Local reports

Pattern. This is the second landslide-dam flood in this valley in five weeks. On 6 September a flood in the Therang Khola at Namrung (Chumnuhari-4) swept away four houses and two bridges and closed the Manaslu and Larke Pass trekking routes.

3. Affected areas and damage

The heaviest damage is in Chumnuhari and Dharche rural municipalities in northern Gorkha, with serious damage at Soti and Arughat further down. Listed upstream to downstream.

Local level (district)	Settlements hit	Reported damage
Chumnuhari RM-6 (Gorkha)	Lokpa, Chumling, Chhekampar, Ugyulung Khola	Landslide dam site; 4 herding sheds and 15 yak/nak swept away; 4–5 herders out of contact
Chumnuhari RM-3 (Gorkha)	Paiyu, Bagar, Ghattekhol, Jagat, Salleri, Sirdibas, Nyakchet, Nyakphedi, Philim	35 houses swept away (Paiyu, Bagar); Jagat riverbed settlement reported wiped out; Bikas Primary School swept away; hotels at Nyakphedi swept away and at Ghattekhol inundated; Nyakchet–Sirdibas suspension bridge lost; one house swept away and one inundated at Sirdibas; Budhi Gandaki hydropower camp at Salleri swept away
Dharche RM-3 and 5 (Gorkha)	Salleri, Machhakhol, Dobhan, Khorlabesi	20–22 houses at risk in Salleri; 5–7 houses and 5–7 sheds inundated in lower Machhakhol; Machhakhol–Kerauja suspension bridge and Dobhan Bailey bridge lost; 3–4 houses and warehouses swept away; trails cut
Arughat RM (Gorkha)	Soti (wards 2–3), Arkhet, Arughat Bazaar (ward 9)	Soti iron bridge lost and most houses in Soti damaged; Arughat concrete bridge partly lost; some houses in Arughat inundated; market evacuated
Arughat area (Dhading side)	Syauli Bazaar	Market swept away (initial report)

Place names are as reported. Collected from Local Levels representatives.

Local representatives reported the following by phone:

- **Ward 3 chair, Chumnuhari (Sirdibas), Ramkumar Gurung:** No human casualties. In Ghattekhol, 7 houses, one community building and one school were swept away. In Paiyu, 7 houses and one bridge were swept away. In Jagat–Bagar, 11 houses were swept away, and in Salleri, 5 houses and the hydropower camp. About 40–45 people are stranded at Salleri Bazaar.
- **Dharche chair, Laxman Gurung:** Four houses in lower Machhakhol and Dobhan Bazaar were swept away; the full extent of damage is not yet confirmed. Six suspension bridges and the motorable bridges at Soti, Arughat and Dobhan were swept away.

4. Human impact

Early warning and pre-dawn evacuation kept loss of life at zero so far, but at least 35 households have lost their homes. No official displacement count has been issued yet.

- Missing. Herders tending livestock on high pasture along the Ugyulung Khola are out of contact. The assistant CDO puts the number at four; Chumnuhari chair Nima Lama says five.
- Deaths and injuries. None reported by the CDO, the Chumnuhari CAO or the Dharche chair as of mid-morning.
- Displaced. Families from at least 35 destroyed houses in Paiyu and Bagar are without shelter, plus households in Jagat, Salleri, Machhakhol, Soti and Arughat who fled to higher ground. The number of households is not yet known.
- Rescued. Six people are reported air-lifted from the affected area; details are still to be confirmed.
- Livelihoods. Hotels, shops and warehouses in the trekking-trail markets of Nyakphedi, Ghattekhol, Jagat, Salleri, Machhakhol, Soti and Syauli were swept away or flooded, along with livestock. These markets depend on Manaslu trekking traffic, which was just starting its autumn season.

- Hydropower workers. Staff at the Budhi Gandaki hydropower site were moved uphill at about 04:00; the contractor reports no casualties.
- Timing. The flood came on Ghatasthapana, the first day of Dashain, when many migrant family members are travelling home.

5. Infrastructure and services

The valley is cut off by foot and by road at several points, and power is down across three Gorkha palikas.

Asset	Location	Status	Source
Nyakchet–Sirdibas suspension bridge	Chumnubri RM-3	Swept away	Gorkha police; Home Minister
Machhakhola–Kerauja suspension bridge	Dharche RM-5	Swept away	Gorkha police; Dharche chair
Dobhan Bailey bridge	Dharche RM	Swept away	Dharche vice-chair
Soti iron motorable bridge (Soti–Manbu link)	Arughat RM-2/3	Swept away	Gorkha police; Asst. CDO
Arughat concrete bridge, Gorkha–Dhading link	Arughat RM-9	One of three spans (Gorkha side) swept away	Gorkha police
Budhi Gandaki hydropower construction camp (341 MW project)	Salleri	Swept away with some equipment	RM, contractor
Bikas Primary School	Ghattekhola, Chumnubri RM-3	Building swept away	Chumnubri vice-chair
Electricity supply	Bhimsen Thapa RM-2, 3, 4; all of Arughat and Dharche RMs; parts of Ganga Jamuna and Tripura Sundari RMs (Dhading)	Lines down	RM
Trails and roads	Upper valley (Chumnubri, Salleri, Jagat, Bagar)	Movement fully blocked	Dharche chair

The contractor said the hydropower site was about 96 percent complete and due for handover this month. Trekkers on the Manaslu circuit are reported stranded; numbers have not been confirmed.

6. Photos from the affected area



Photo 1. Riverbed buried in grey debris below a settlement, with houses at the edge of the deposit.



Photo 2. Machhakhola Bazaar, with the flood deposit along the river below the market.



Photo 3. Buildings standing in debris and mud left by the flood.



Photo 4. Houses along the riverbank, with the debris deposit reaching their foundations.



Photo 5. The Budhi Gandaki valley after the flood, the channel filled with debris.

7. Hydrology and early warning

At 09:45 the Budhi Gandaki at Arughat stood at 8.43 m, 3.43 m above the 5 m danger level (warning level 4.5 m). Police at Arughat said around 10:00 that the level had not yet fallen downstream.

- The Budhi Gandaki joins the Trishuli at Siurenitar, so NDRRMA has asked people along the Trishuli and down to the Narayani to stay alert.
- The Flood Forecasting Division has warned of high risk as far down as Mugling.
- Police asked people not to go to the riverbank as far as Trishuli Dobhan, and to stay on high ground.
- Residents of Sirdibas, Khorlabesi, Machhakhola, Soti, Arkhet and Arughat were asked to move to safe places.
- Early warning worked. Local relays reached Dharche around 03:30, before the flood arrived, and the Dharche chair credits this with preventing deaths.

8. Government response

All three security forces and helicopters have been deployed, and the Home Minister is heading to the area.

- Home Minister Sudan Gurung said helicopters had been sent with Nepal Police, the Armed Police Force and local administration for rescue, relief and relocation, and that all three security agencies were mobilized.
- A Nepal Army rescue team has reached the affected area.
- Police teams were sent from the Sirdibas and Chumchet posts; police in Gorkha are using loudspeakers along the river.
- Helicopter reconnaissance of the affected stretch began in the morning.
- NDRRMA issued an alert for six districts after the Arughat gauge passed the danger level.
- Arughat Bazaar was evacuated by police.

9. Risks and outlook

The main risk is a second outburst: the river was re-blocked around 08:20 and locals say it keeps blocking and releasing.

- A renewed release could send another surge down to Arughat, the Trishuli and the Narayani. The Dharche chair said the risk has not passed.
- Repeated landslide-dam floods in this valley (6 September and 11 October) point to unstable slopes in upper Chumnubri.
- The forecast for 11 October shows light to moderate rain with thunder in a few hill and mountain areas of Gandaki, which could add to slope instability.
- With bridges and trails gone, access to upper Chumnubri appears largely limited to helicopters for now. That will slow assessment and relief.
- Dashain travel will put more people on the move in the affected markets in the coming days.

10. Likely priority needs and information gaps

No needs assessment has been published yet. The needs below are anticipated from the damage reported and should be confirmed with the local governments and the District Disaster Management Committee, Gorkha.

Anticipated needs:

- Emergency shelter and household items for families from the 35 destroyed houses and those evacuated from Jagat, Salleri, Machhakhola, Soti and Arughat, with nights getting cold at altitude.
- Food for households whose stocks, shops and livestock were lost, especially where supply routes are cut.
- Safe drinking water and hygiene supplies, as debris-laden water is likely to have affected local water sources.
- Search for the missing herders and air access to cut-off settlements.
- Temporary learning space for children of Bikas Primary School, Ghattekhol.
- Protection and psychosocial support, given that the flood recalls the August Bhote Koshi disaster for many residents.

11. Sources

Compiled from reports, conversations with ward chairs, RM chairs and the BWSN network. Officials quoted include CDO Dharmendra Kumar Mishra, Assistant CDO Netra Prasad Sharma and Inspector Akash Kandel (Gorkha), Chumnubri chair Nima Lama, vice-chair Laxmi Gurung and CAO Narayan Prasad Sapkota, Dharche chair Laxman Gurung, and Arughat chair Raju Gurung.

Other sources: Gorkha police, Home Minister, Asst. CDO Gorkha, Dharche chair and Dharche vice-chair.

Chumnuhari Rural Municipality: Chairperson Nima Lama (निमा लामा); Vice-chairperson Laxmi Gurung (लक्ष्मी गुरुङ); Ward 3 chair Ramkumar Gurung (रामकुमार गुरुङ); Ward 7 chair Tsi Dorje Lama (टसी दोर्जे लामा).

Dharche Rural Municipality: Chairperson Laxman Gurung (लक्ष्मण गुरुङ); Vice-chairperson Sunila Gurung (सुनिला गुरुङ); Ward 3 chair (Uhiya, includes Khorlabesi) Sher Bahadur Gurung (शेर बहादुर गुरुङ); Ward 5 chair (Gumda, includes Machhakhola Bazaar) Bhim Prasad Gurung (भिम प्रसाद गुरुङ).

Arughat Rural Municipality: Chairperson Raju Gurung; Vice-chairperson Kalpana Nepali; Ward 2 chair (Soti side) Ramesh Kumar Lamichhane (रमेश कुमार लामिछाने); Ward 3 chair (Soti side) Tek Bahadur Adhikari (टेक बहादुर अधिकारी); Ward 9 chair (Arughat Bazaar) Murari Khanal (मुरारी खनाल).