



# OCHA Nepal Situation Overview

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## Highlights:

- The IDP working group launches conflict induced displacement report
- Mid Year Review consultations on Consolidated Appeal for 2009 conclude – highlight food security, disaster preparedness, and need for more balanced funding across all sectors
- Formation of new government continues, with delays
- Strikes by Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoists and its affiliates affects normal life
- Rift in Madhesh People's Right Forum over cabinet appointments

## CONTEXT

### Political Developments

Consultations regarding the formation of the 22 member coalition government led by Communist Party of Nepal- Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) continued. On 4 June, 8 more Ministers from the main coalition partners Nepali Congress (NC), Madheshi Peoples Rights Forum (MPRF) and CPN-UML were appointed to the government and sworn in. This brings to 11 the number of new cabinet ministers sworn in since the formation of the new government started on 25 May.

During this period, the coalition partners finished the formulation of a Common Minimum Programme, a Code of Conduct for Ministers, and guidelines for operation of the new government. However, inter-party and intra-party wrangling over power-sharing and allocation of government portfolios continued to delay cabinet expansion. On 7 June, a power-sharing meeting between the NC and CPN-UML ended inconclusively as both parties stuck to their demands for influential and high-level ministerial portfolios of Finance, Home, Defence, Local Development and Water Resources. Similarly, a meeting of the CPN-UML's Standing Committee on 8 June failed to finalise the list of CPN-UML ministers to join the government. According to media reports, the decision by the NC President G.P Koirala to hand-pick his daughter to lead the NC in government, and to send junior ministers to the cabinet, has polarised the party. The completion of full cabinet formation was postponed severally during this period.

Differences between the Chairman and Parliamentary party leader of the MPRF, a key coalition partner, over who to lead the party in the new government continued. On 5 June, at a press conference, MPRF chairman Upendra Yadav announced the withdrawal of MPRF support to the CPN-UML led coalition government and the expulsion of Parliamentary Party leader Bijay Kumar Gachchhadar, along with six other central committee members, for joining the new government against party policy. Gachchhadar had already been sworn in as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Planning and Works on 4 June.

On 7 June, Yadav informed the Speaker, Prime Minister, President and Election Commission about the party's decision to withdraw support to the new government and to stay in opposition. However, on 8 June Gachchhadar informed the Speaker that the MPRF was a member of the ruling coalition and would continue to support the CPN-UML-led government. Both Yadav and Gachchhadar maintain that they enjoy a majority support within the party. On 8 June, the Yadav faction of MPRF called a strike protesting the appointment of Gachchhadar as the Deputy Prime Minister without the party's recommendation. The

Yadav led faction also criticised the NC and the CPN-UML of trying to split MPRF political party. Kapilbastu, Mahottari, Bara, Nawalparasi, Sunsari, Morang, Banke, Dang, Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusa, Rautahat and other Terai Districts were affected due to the bandh. Vehicles did not ply and markets, educational institutions, factories and offices remained closed. Protesters burnt tyres in several Terai markets area. On 8 June, local shopkeepers and businessmen in Rautahat District Headquarters, Gaur, clashed with the strike supporters, leading to reported injury of more than six MPRF supporters.

The new government continued revoking some of the decisions that had been reached by the former Unified Communist Party of Nepal- Maoist (UCPN-M) government. On 5 June, a cabinet meeting decided to extend the tenure of eight Nepal Army (NA) brigadier generals by a further three years. In mid-March the Defence Ministry had decided not to extend the tenure of the eight. Similarly, on 8 June, the NA decided in principle to initiate a court of inquiry against Lieutenant General Kul Bahadur Khadka for his alleged association with the UCPN-M. Khadka, the NA second-in-command, had been appointed by the former UCPN-M-led government as Acting Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) after the Cabinet sacked CoAS Rookmangud Katawal on 3 May.

During this period, the UCPN-M continued blocking the proceedings of the Legislature-Parliament (L-P), demanding discussion of their "commitment resolution" against the President's move to reinstate the CoAS. The speaker of L-P had decided against such discussion on 30 May due to lack of consensus by L-P members over the issues as well as the fact that the matter was sub-judice. On 12 June, the L-P was postponed indefinitely after it completed discussion of two papers that had been presented by the Constitution sub-committees.

### Safety and security

During this period, UCPN-M supporters and allied groups continued holding demonstrations in many districts across the country protesting against the President's decision to reinstate the CoAS and the CA's refusal to table the UCPN-M motion over the issue for discussion. As part of the UCPN-M's announced series of nationwide protests against the President's move to reinstate the Chief of Army Staff (CoAS), on 3 June, the UCPN-M organized peaceful sit-in programs in front of all District Administration Offices (DAOs) throughout the country. On 5 June, the UCPN-M affiliated Tharu Rastriya Mukti Morcha enforced a one-day bandh in Banke, Dang, Bardiya and Kailali districts. According to media reports, three people were injured in clashes in Bardiya district when UCPN-M cadres tried to enforce the bandh. On 6 June, the UCPN-M enforced a bandh to protest over the CoAS issue and the 'encroachment' of Nepali land by India in Morang, Jhapa and Sunsari districts. In Morang, a vehicle belonging to Kantipur Publications was vandalized

and set on fire by UCPN-M cadres for defying the bandh. On 5 June, UCPN-M affiliated Tharu National Liberation Front (TNLF) called Tharuhat Region Bandh to protest the president's 'unconstitutional move and the foreign intervention in Nepal's internal affairs'. On 6 June, workers of the Sunsari-Morang industrial corridor took to the streets to protest the UCPN-M demonstrations. UCPN-M supporters had reportedly vandalised seven factories along the corridor and had attacked workers for defying the Sunsari, Morang and Jhapa bandh called by the UCPN-M on 6 June. Similarly, during the reporting period, UCPN-M continued with the daily 2 hour nation-wide transportation strikes restricted movement of Humanitarian and development partners in different parts of the country (See below under operational space)

On 11 June, UCPN-M affiliated Madhesi Rastriya Mukti Morcha announced a Mithila Rajya Samiti bandh protesting the President's 'unconstitutional move' and demanding an end on 'foreign intervention' in Nepal. Effects of the bandh were observed in Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusa and Mahottari districts with no vehicular movement and closure of markets. Similarly, on 11 June, UCPN-M announced for Bhojpur Rajya bandh, protesting against the President's 'unconstitutional move' over CoAS. The effect of this bandh was observed in Rautahat, Bara and Parsa districts with no vehicular movement and closure of markets. On 9 June, UCPN-M supporters held a rally in Bhojpur District Headquarters, forcing the closure of shops. Government offices were also padlocked, compelling employees to halt work. On 15 June, UCPN-M affiliated Young Communist League (YCL) called Kathmandu valley bandh to protest the death of one of their cadres- the in charge of Kathmandu 7 area on 11 June. The strike paralysed life in the valley, with closure of educational institutions, markets and industries.



*Strike by local demanding electrification in Kailali: photo Credit OCHA*

Extortion and demand for huge amounts of money as 'donations' also continued to be reported. On 5 June, Janabadi Hill Tiger, an outfit which has been carrying out armed activities in parts of the eastern hilly districts demanded large 'donations' from businessmen of Bhojpur bazaar, Bhojpur District, stating that the donations were needed to continue the 'People's War' started by the Maoists and to free the people. The leader of the Janabadi Hill Tiger, Hansaraj, reportedly threatened to take 'physical action' if such donations were not provided immediately.

## Reach of the State

Blocking of government offices from operating due to a variety of reasons by different groups continue to be observed. From 10 June, the District Development Committee (DDC) Mahottari was padlocked by political parties including Sadbhawana Party, RPP, RPP-Nepal and Rastriya Janashakti Party, demanding the release of a commission of inquiry report on the 2007-8 Financial Year. The report is said to have documented DDC Mahottari budget misappropriation by the then Local Development Officer (LDO) and some political parties. On 7 June, UCPN-M supporters burned a motorcycle belonging to Regional Agriculture Directorate in Jhumka, Sunsari District for defying their strike.

On 6 June, residents of Humla District closed down the Simikot airport demanding a reduction in the airfare of helicopter, one of the main means of transport available in the area. The airport was opened on 10 June after negotiations. The transportation badly affected public transportation of goods, patients and pilgrims.

The Kirant Janabadi Workers party (KJWP) increased extortion campaigns directed at government officials in Khotang Udaypur and Bhojpur districts. During this period, KJWP cadres directed VDC Secretaries in the 3 districts to provide KJWP with 200,000 Nepali Rupees (NPR) each, warning them of physical attacks if they failed to do so. Other staff at the District Education Office (DEO), District Development Committee (DDC) and District Water Office was similarly approached by KJWP for 'donations'. On 2 June, KJWP called a strike along the Mechi highway demanding the release of its 7 cadres that were arrested and charged with extortion. Similarly, on 3 June, the Kirat Limbuan national Front enforced a bandh in Jhapa district demanding the release of its 5 cadres who are currently in detention. In Mid and Far Western regions, the Tharuhat cadres intensified collection of 'donation and the taxes' from businessman, contractors and vehicles plying along the main roads, including the Nepalgunj- Surkhet section of East-West highway. On 8 June, Police arrested 12 cadres of Tharuhat Joint Struggle Committee (TJSC) in Banke District, and charged them with being involved in seizing a microbus and extorting money from the owner.

VDC Secretaries continued facing difficulties from different groups. Following threats from KJWP, all the VDC Secretaries from Khotang Udaypur and Bhojpur districts, relocated to the District Headquarters and informed the DDC that they would not return to their respective VDCs until their security was guaranteed. On 4 June, VDC Secretaries of Sunsari stopped work demanding action against those involved in the attack of the Jalpapur VDC Secretary, as well as demanding an increase in safety and security for VDC Secretaries.

Approximately 33 percent VDC Secretaries of the Terai Districts in the Eastern and Central regions (Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusa, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Bara, Parsa and Rautahat Districts) are displaced to District Headquarters due to threats, demand for 'donation' and warning of physical attacks by armed groups and criminal gangs. Majority of them are from those VDCs located near the Indian border.

## Operational Space

Humanitarian and development partners continued facing challenges due to increased militancy by strike organisers. UN vehicles, International Non-Government Organisations (I/NGOs) and other vehicular movement was obstructed due to the UCPN-M protests this week. Vehicles were frequently

prevented from passing road-blocks for the duration of the daily two-hour long strikes throughout the country. On 15 June, those enforcing a strike asked UN offices in Dadeldhura to close down. Similarly a UN vehicle was stoned by strikers in Kathmandu.



*UN vehicle being blocked by strikers in Kathmandu. Photo credit OCHA*

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

### Food security

In response to the identified needs of those affected by the winter drought, The World Food Programme (WFP) has ramped-up its operations to provide food assistance to more than 1.5 million people through 2009 who are severely threatened by hunger because of the winter drought and sustained high food prices. Relief will be provided via food/cash for asset modality where beneficiaries who spend time building critical assets and agricultural inputs will be 'paid' with food or cash assistance.

The United Nations International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched the 'Jobs for Peace' project to support 12,500 young people of Parsa and Rautahat districts in finding employment. The project aims to strengthen the peace process by providing productive opportunities for conflict affected youth. Financed through a grant from the UN Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN), the project supports Nepal's key priority of creating short term peace dividends. The project will support young men and women to find jobs and also to become self employed through training on agricultural activities, small enterprise or other services. The project will work with about 30 cooperatives to strengthen links with the private sector and markets.

In close collaboration with the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC), the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Red Cross, FAO conducted a field simulation exercise on the containment of Avian Influenza Virus in Kaski District. The simulation activity focused on rapid response in the context of outbreaks of the disease within poultry producers.

During this period, FAO completed distribution of 90 MT of paddy seeds which supported 3 000 households in Kailali district. Further distribution of paddy seeds continued in 10 VDCs of Kanchanpur district. Upon completion, 75 MT of paddy seeds will have been distributed to 2 500 farmers. Through a Government of Spain funded project, FAO is targeting farmers affected by conflicts, floods and droughts in the Mid Western Region of Nepal. 30 000 most vulnerable households in the districts of Jajarkot, Pyuthan, Rolpa,

Rukum and Salyan are being provided with cereal and vegetable seeds in addition to small ruminants. Besides the distribution of seeds, a very important component of the project is related to trainings. Up to date, FAO has carried out training sessions on crop husbandry (for 10 vegetable species and 4 cereal crops) for over 13 400 farmers in the target districts. In Salyan and Pyuthan, Trainings of Trainers (ToT) for NGO staff and community health workers on nutritional aspects have taken place. ToTs for NGO and DLSSO staff targeting livestock husbandry and health care are also an important aspect of the project's activities.

### Health

During the period, there were increased reports of diarrhoea and typhoid outbreak in Acham, Bhajang, Rolpa, Jumla and Jajarkot districts. Media reports indicated that up to 20 people died due to the outbreak in Jajarkot district alone. The District Public Health Office (DPHO) mobilized mobile health teams to the affected VDCs. Similarly, in Doti district, an increase in the number of viral eye infections especially in the rural VDCs was reported.

According to the District HIV/AIDS Coordination Committee (DACC) of Kailali district, out of the total HIV infected people in the district, 85 percent are Dalits, 10 percent are Janajati/ Aadibasi and five percent are Brahman, Chhetri and Thakuri. Most of those infected are migrants.

Following reported outbreak of a viral infection whose symptoms-include high fever, headache, Diarrhoea, on 10 June, the District Public Health Office (DPHO) Banke mobilized a rapid response health team comprising of seven health workers to Matehiya and Gangapur VDC in Banke District to assess the situation and provide necessary health support

### Emergency Shelter/NFI

The WFP funded food for training programme being implemented by UN Habitat for the Koshi flood affected is ongoing with approximately 125/250 trainees attending vocational training. The quota of 250 trainees is all expected to attend training by the end of June, with the first graduates expected towards the end of July.

UN Habitat developed a concept note and circulated to donors requesting US\$ 295,320 to provide shelter support for 300 to 400 returning households who lived beside the main stream, within the red zone (area most affected by floods). This group lost both their homes and land when the Koshi River flooded their area. The Local Development Officer (LDO) of Sunsari district prioritised this group for shelter assistance.

Up to date IFRC through the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has distributed 1,100 tarpaulins to 550 Households (HHs) from the Koshi floods. The target group include HHs remaining in camps and the most vulnerable HHs who have returned to their places of origin

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

During the reporting period, the District Water Sanitation and Sewerage Office (DWSSO) and UNICEF organised a 'Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Week' in Banke and Dang districts as from 9 June. During the week various awareness programmes were organised.

### Protection

Between 2 and 5 June, UNFPA, OHCHR and UNICEF with the support from OCHA and TPO jointly organized a four-day regional workshop on Protecting Persons Affected by Natural Disasters in Nepalgunj, Banke district. The

workshop aimed at enhancing preparedness among key humanitarian actors with regard to their response to human rights and protection challenges in emergencies. The workshop was attended by 30 participants from six districts of the Mid-Western and Far-Western regions. The participants included officials from the DAO, the Women's Development Office, Local Development Office, District Health Office, the Nepal Red Cross Society and NGOs involved in disaster preparedness and response. The workshop focused on collecting and sharing information and experiences on rights protection issues, finding ways of being more responsive to the needs of the vulnerable groups, improving coordination of protection efforts during emergencies and finding ways to prevent rights violations in humanitarian crisis and addressing the human rights violations in a timely manner

During this period, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) launched a report on the current status of conflict induced displacement in Nepal. The report is based on recent assessment conducted in 19 districts of Nepal by IDP working group partners including NRC, Save the Children, Caritas, International Relief and Development, INSEC and INHURED International. The report among other things state that approximately 25% of conflict induced displaced persons remain unregistered. The report further adds that 46% of the Conflict induced internally displaced persons (IDPs) reside in rented houses while 21% reside in government land and slum areas. According to the report, 53% of IDPs want to integrate locally, 37% are interested in return, while 10% of the interviewed IDPs would like to resettle elsewhere. The report further add that factors that inhibit return of IDPs include security, unresolved land, housing and property issues, lack of livelihood and social acceptance..

#### **Disaster Preparedness and response**

Preparedness activities using the cluster approach continued to be carried out by the Inter-Agency standing Committee (IASC) members at central and district levels. The Emergency Education cluster organized a workshop on 12 and 13 June which looked at lessons learned from the Koshi floods and the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) standards for education, and incorporated these into the contingency plan revision

During this period, district Disaster Preparedness Workshops were conducted in Rautahat, Sarlahi, Bara, Dhanusha, Siraha, Banke, and Kailali districts.



*Fire affected community in Banke District: Photo credit- Save the children*

On 14 June, fire broke out in Kalaphanta VDC-5, Rataiya, Banke District. The fire completely destroyed 60 households, affecting 325 individuals (152 male and 172 female from 60 families). The affected families lost household items, food, school kits including text book and important documents. A response team consisting of NRCS, DAO, Save the Children, Banke and UNESCO club (SC's local partner) moved to the affected site and provided the affected families with material support including household and NFI kits, 40 sets of children's kits from Save the children, dry food (5 pkts of bhujia and 5 pkts of biscuits) from Unesco club and NPRs. 1000.00 to each family from DAO Banke. According to initial assessment reports, the affected families will require further food assistance, educational materials, health and water and sanitation facilities.

#### **Coordination**

Coordination meetings based on the cluster approach continue to take place both in the regions and Kathmandu to coordinate response and preparedness.

On 11 June consultations in the Humanitarian Country Team on the Mid Year Review (MYR) of the Nepal Humanitarian Transition appeal were concluded and the final field draft submitted to the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) section in OCHA Geneva for final review. The MYR of the appeal addresses; the impact of the winter drought which resulted in an additional 707,000 persons requiring food assistance; the uneven funding levels across sectors and advocate for broader support; and the need for increased support for disaster preparedness. The 2009 Nepal Humanitarian Transition Appeal has been revised upwardly to US \$137 million from \$115 million to particularly address the emerging humanitarian needs arising from the impact of drought/increased food insecurity. In the Mid year review, OCHA also presents the newly established Emergency Response Fund (ERF). The Nepal ERF seeks to raise US\$2 million for quick response to humanitarian needs being addressed by I/NGOs

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS/ MEETINGS**

- 16 - 17 June, 2009: Contingency Planning and Lessons Learned CCCM Workshop, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Summit Hotel
- 17 June, 2009: SEA meeting, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, OCHA Conference Room
- 18 June, 2009: BOGs Meeting, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm, SDC Meeting Room
- 19 June, 2009: Operational IASC Meeting, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, OCHA Conference Room
- 25 June, 2009: Emergency Health and Nutrition Working Group Meeting, 10:00 am – 11:30 am, UNICEF Meeting Room
- 26 June, 2009: Operational IASC Meeting, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, OCHA Conference Room
- 28-30 June: Sunsari Disaster Preparedness / Contingency Planning Workshop with Cluster Leads.
- 30 June – 1 July: Multi-sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) training of roster members, Kathmandu
- 1-3 July: Protection in Disaster Response Workshop: Biratnagar

For more details, please visit Meeting schedules at UN Nepal Information Platform (NIP).

<http://www.un.org.np/WebCalendar/month.php>

**RECENT MAPS AVAILABLE:**

OCHA IMU produced a number of mapping products, some of which are listed below and also available on the Nepal Information Platform (NIP) (<http://www.un.org.np/>).

Nepal: Reports of Security Incidents - Jan to April, 2009

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadadata.php?id=650>

Nepal: Reports of Bandhs / Blockades - Jan to April, 2009

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadadata.php?id=649>

Nepal: Incident Affecting Operational Space - Jan to April, 2009

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadadata.php?id=648>

Nepal: Focal Agency Supporting DDRC for District Pre-Monsoon Disaster Preparedness, 2009

<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadadata.php?id=647>

For more detail assessment data and maps, please visit UN Nepal Information Platform

<http://www.un.org.np/assessments.php>

**RECENT REPORTS AVAILABLE:**

On behalf of UN Resident Coordinator Office, a webpage on Influenza A H1N1 has been posted in the UN Nepal Information Platform. The page contains daily situation updates from the RC's office as well as global reports from WHO. Please visit UN Nepal Information Platform for more details.

<http://www.un.org.np/resources/influenza-a-h1n1.php>

**Some of the recent reports available on NIP are listed below:**

CONCERN WORLDWIDE Report: Nutrition Survey Report  
[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?id=543](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?id=543)

Koshi Flood: Rapid Hazard And Risk Assessment (Post-Flood Return Analysis)

[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?id=542](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?id=542)

WASH Cluster Report: Hygiene Promotion in Emergencies: Lessons Learned from Koshi Flood Response

[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?id=541](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?id=541)

UNICEF Report: Wash Cluster Nepal Earthquake Contingency Plan

[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?id=540](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?id=540)

WASH Cluster Nepal Report: Koshi Flood Phase out and Decommissioning Plan

[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?id=539](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?id=539)

*Disclaimer: The information in this report is consolidated from media, UN, NGO, and other humanitarian partners, subject to availability of data. Although OCHA aims to confirm reports independently, occasional factual inaccuracies can occur. For inputs, questions or comments please contact: Vincent Omuga, Humanitarian Affairs Officer on ph. 9851072870, [omuga@un.org](mailto:omuga@un.org)*

Wendy Cue, Head of Office  
OCHA Nepal

Tel. +977 (1) 559-2311

[ocha-nepal@un.org](mailto:ocha-nepal@un.org)

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