

Nepal | Flash Floods Situation Update

Flash Floods – Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Chitwan, Gorkha, Tanahun & Nawalparasi East

Situation Report No. 01 | 27th August 2026, 11:00 hrs NPT

HIGHLIGHTS

- A major debris-laden flash flood from the upper transboundary watershed near the Nepal-China border north-east of Rasuwagadhi on the morning of 26 August 2026 and travelled through the Bhote Koshi-Trishuli-Narayani river system.
- NDRRMA attributes the initiating event to an ice and rock landslide north-east to the Rasuwagadhi border point, which affected Lhende Khola and subsequently travelled through Rasuwagadhi, Timure and Syaphrubesi, entered the Trishuli River and propagated downstream through several districts.
- Severe physical damage has been reported. NDRRMA records 35 motorable bridges and 45 suspension bridges swept away and approximately 40 km of paved road damaged.
- DHM's technical analysis shows that the principal flood wave moved rapidly downstream, reaching Galchhi at approximately 10:28 hrs, Malekhu around 11:50 hrs, crossing Muglin around 13:00 hrs and reaching Devghat at approximately 15:20 hrs.
- At Devghat, the river reached a maximum observed water level of approximately 6.57 m at 16:00 hrs, corresponding to an estimated peak discharge of approximately 5,850 m³/s. The level subsequently declined, reaching around 4 m by approximately 18:30 hrs.
- Although the principal flood wave had receded at Devghat by the evening, DHM did not consider the hazard fully concluded. Information received from the Nepal-China border indicated that the lake formed behind the upstream river blockage had not completely drained, requiring continued monitoring of the Bhote Koshi-Trishuli-Narayani system.



Bodies recovered and missing persons

Figure / information	Source	Status
165 bodies recovered; identification and confirmation of fatalities ongoing (Chitwan 64, Dhading 27, Gorkha 20, Nuwakot 12, Tanahun 9, Rasuwa 2, Nawalparasi East 26, Nawalparasi West 5)	NDRRMA Status Report #05, 11 Bhadra 2083 / 27 Aug 2026, 09:00 hrs	Official; identification of bodies not yet completed
247 people out of contact (Rasuwa 161, Nepal Army 44, Nepal Police 28, Armed Police Force Nepal 13, DEOC reports Rasuwa 161, Nuwakot 1 persons out of contact)	NDRRMA Status Report #05	Official; search and rescue ongoing
73 injured (Rasuwa 43, Nuwakot 27, Dhading 3), numbers are to be confirmed	NDRRMA Status Report #05	Official; under treatment
123 people rescued from Timure in Rasuwa (94 Nepalese national and 29 foreign national); total 239 rescued by helicopter (211 by Nepal Army and 28 by Civil helicopter)	NDRRMA Status Report #05 (Nepal Army / Civil Aviation helicopters)	Official
579 travellers reported missing (466 foreign nationals, 113 Nepali nationals)	Nepal Tourism Board, and NDRRMA Status Report #05	Preliminary; being verified and cross-checked
Staff of the Rasuwagadhi Customs and Immigration Office out of contact	NDRRMA Status Report #05	Official; number not yet specified

The figures above are taken from NDRRMA Status Report #05 (11 Bhadra 2083 / 27 Aug 2026, 09:16 hrs) and supersede the media-sourced figures carried in Situation Report No. 01, 02 and 04. They are official but provisional: identification of the recovered bodies has not yet been completed, and NDRRMA states that the collection of human and material damage details is ongoing. Search and rescue operations continue, and figures are expected to change.

Downstream exposure is active: Nuwakot, Dhading, Chitwan, Gorkha and Tanahun are on NDRRMA high alert, with the Trishuli confirmed above danger level at Furke/Malekhu. Approximately 430 MW of electricity supply, predominantly from hydropower, has been affected, according to the Ministry of Energy. The proportion of national installed capacity is being verified against the latest NEA capacity data. Nepal Police report the Prithvi Highway (Kathmandu–Muglin–Pokhara) closed between Nagdhunga and Bharatpur, while NDRRMA has requested district administrations to restrict travel on the Pasang Lhamu Highway corridor into Rasuwa — constraints that are also slowing verification and rescue access.

Response is underway but constrained: Prime Minister Hon Balendra Shah has directed the mobilization of national security and response agencies — Nepal Army (MI-17 with medical team), Armed Police Force, Nepal Police, Red Cross and Scouts — and NDRRMA has issued two formal advisory letters (evacuation order and an air/drone SAR appeal). Access to Syaphrubesi and Timure remained constrained by high water levels, limiting direct verification of damage and casualties in the worst-affected areas. The upper Bhote Koshi corridor was also affected by major flooding in July 2025, and parts of the corridor remained vulnerable.

CURRENT SITUATION

1. Incident Overview and Development

● Initiating Event:

- According to NDRRMA, at approximately 08:40 hrs on 26 August, an ice/rock landslide occurred in the upper watershed near the Nepal–China border, around 20 km north-east of the Rasuwagadhi border point. The event affected the Lhende Khola, resulting in a large debris-laden flood.
- The resulting flood originated in the upper transboundary watershed upstream of the Nepal-China border and entered Nepal through the Bhote Koshi corridor, passing through Rasuwagadhi, Timure and Syaphrubesi before entering the Trishuli River.
- As the flood propagated downstream, it created serious risks and impacts along riverine areas of Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha and Chitwan, with subsequent effects continuing through the Narayani system.
- DHM separately records a magnitude 4.4 earthquake at 08:37 hrs, citing the Department of Mines and Geology. The DHM report does not yet establish a causal relationship between the earthquake and the flood, and it should therefore not be described as the cause of the disaster.

● Flood-wave progression

- DHM's technical report provides the following chronology of the flood's downstream movement.

Time	Observed development
08:40 hrs	NDRRMA reports the initiating ice/rock landslide and debris-laden flood in the upper watershed near the Nepal–China border.
08:50 hrs	Data transmission from the Bhote Koshi–Syaphrubesi hydrological station ceased. Its last recorded level at 08:40 hrs was 1.62 m.
09:00 hrs	Information on a large flood entering the Bhote Koshi was received by DHM through the District Administration Office, Rasuwa and personnel associated with the Betrawati monitoring station.
09:15 hrs	Large flood confirmed in the Bhote Koshi; initial downstream warning issued for Trishuli riverbank areas.
09:20 hrs	Betrawati hydrological station stopped transmitting. Its last reading was 3.55 m.
10:28 hrs	Flood reported around Galchhi, Dhading.
11:26 hrs	Water level at Furke/Malekhu crossed the warning level.
11:43 hrs	Furke/Malekhu crossed the danger level; the Furke Khola bridge was subsequently inundated.

11:50 hrs	Flood reached the Malekhu Bazaar area.
13:00 hrs	Main flood wave crossed Muglin.
13:20 hrs	Devghat water level recorded at approximately 4.76 m; the main flood wave was expected later in the afternoon.
14:14 hrs	Kalikhola crossed its 12.1 m danger level and subsequently reached approximately 12.3 m.
15:20 hrs	Flood reached the Narayani–Devghat area.
16:00 hrs	Devghat reached its observed maximum water level of approximately 6.57 m; estimated discharge approximately 5,850 m ³ /s.
After 16:00 hrs	Water level at Devghat began declining.
18:30 hrs	Devghat flow had declined to approximately 4 m.

DHM estimates that the river distance from the Nepal-China border to Devghat is approximately 168 km, demonstrating the rapid propagation of the flood wave through the interconnected Bhote Koshi–Trishuli–Narayani system.

2. Meteorological / hydrological overview

a. Monitoring-station impacts

- Several upstream monitoring stations became unavailable as the flood progressed.
- Data could not subsequently be obtained from the stations at: Bhote Koshi/Rasuwa; Syaphrubesi; Betrawati; and Malekhu/Furke.
- The loss of upstream monitoring data increased dependence on downstream stations, field information, and indirect information for tracking the flood wave.
- At Furke/Malekhu, the river crossed both warning and danger thresholds. At Kalikhola, the river exceeded its danger level before the main flood wave reached Devghat.

b. Devghat observations

- At Devghat, the observed maximum water level was approximately 6.57 m at 16:00 hrs.
- DHM's preliminary technical assessment indicates that the observed flow at Devghat was approximately consistent with a 2–3-year return-period flood at that location.
- This return-period assessment relates specifically to conditions observed at Devghat and should not be interpreted as an indication that the overall event was minor. Severe impacts occurred much farther upstream, where the debris-laden flood travelled through narrow valleys, settlements and critical infrastructure.

c. Continuing upstream uncertainty

- DHM reports that information received from the Nepal-China border indicated that the lake associated with the upstream river blockage had not completely drained.
- At the time of reporting, the possibility of further releases could therefore not be fully excluded.
- DHM recommends continued real-time monitoring of major hydrological stations; updating of information regarding the upstream river blockage and lake condition; monitoring of Devghat and downstream conditions; technical assessment of the event and performance of the forecasting and early-warning system.

3. Human impact (per NDRRMA Status Report #05, 27 August 2026, 09:00hrs)

- 165 bodies have been recovered from the flood-affected areas, with identification yet to be completed: Chitwan 64, Dhading 27, Gorkha 20, Nuwakot 12, Tanahun 9, Rasuwa 2, Nawalparasi East 26 and Nawalparasi West 5.
- 247 people are out of contact:** Rasuwa 161; Nepal Army 44; Nepal Police 28; Armed Police Force Nepal 13; and Nuwakot 1. The Rasuwa and Nuwakot figures were received from the respective DEOCs.
- Employees of the Rasuwagadhi Customs and Immigration Office, including those at the office itself, are also out of contact; a figure has not yet been given.**
- 73 people are reportedly injured and under treatment:** Rasuwa 43, Nuwakot 27 and Dhading 3, numbers are to be confirmed.
- 93 people were rescued on the spot — Nuwakot 47, Rasuwa 43 and Dhading 3 — with a further 239 rescued by air (Nepal Army and Civil Aviation helicopters).**

- Earlier media and agency reports cited differing figures for missing security and customs personnel. These have been superseded by the latest NDRRMA breakdown above. NDRRMA's Status Report #05 also contains a discrepancy between its narrative and data annex regarding police personnel; **the data-annex figure of 28 is used pending clarification**. Handling note: personnel figures are pre-notification of next of kin; do not attribute to named individuals, posts or units in externally shared products.
 - According to **Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) Situation Update-2, dated 26 August 2026**, preliminary records received from tourism and travel companies identified **579 travellers reported missing from the affected areas**, comprising **466 foreign nationals and 113 Nepali nationals**. NTB emphasized that these figures are **preliminary and are being verified and cross-checked** with travel agencies, guides, local authorities and security agencies. The 579 travellers reported missing by NTB are a separate preliminary reporting category and should not be added to NDRRMA's 247 people out of contact. The extent of any overlap between the two datasets has not yet been established.
- 4. Displacement and evacuation**
- NDRRMA has ordered evacuation of households in the riverbank areas of the Bhote Koshi, Trishuli and Narayani rivers in Rasuwa, Dhading, Nuwakot, Gorkha, Chitwan and Tanahun districts.
 - People in areas where rescue is required have been asked by NDRRMA to produce visible smoke from a fire at their location, so rescue teams can identify them.

Environmental and infrastructure damage

- **Hydropower and power transmission:** damage confirmed at the Rasuwagadhi, Chilime and Trishuli-3A hydropower plants and an associated 220 kV substation, with wider transmission/distribution infrastructure affected. Nepal's Energy Ministry estimated approximately 430 MW of electricity supply disrupted, share to be confirmed against NEA data.
- Roads and bridges: NDRRMA reports 35 motorable bridges and 45 suspension bridges swept away, and 40 km of paved road damaged.
- The affected corridor includes the upper Bhote Koshi area around Rasuwagadhi, Timure and Syaphrubesi, with impacts extending downstream through the Trishuli system.
- The corridor was already vulnerable following the July 2025 flood, which damaged critical cross-border and hydropower infrastructure; the extent of renewed damage is being assessed.
- The Government has identified the restoration of the following infrastructure and services as immediate recovery priorities: roads and bridges; electricity; telecommunications; drinking-water systems; and other critical public infrastructure

OFFICIAL NDRRMA ADVISORIES (26 August 2026)

- **Letter 1 – Special Request for Air/Drone Search & Rescue Support:** NDRRMA formally requested all helicopter and drone associations — including the Helicopter Operators' Association Nepal and the Nepal Drone Association — to coordinate with District Administration Offices and security agencies to support search and rescue in Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading and Chitwan.
- **Letter 2 – Request for Special Attention / Evacuation Advisory:** Following information received regarding the upstream river blockage and lake condition, NDRRMA asked all residents along the Bhote Koshi, Trishuli and Narayani rivers to remain highly alert until further notice, and directed households in riverbank areas of Rasuwa, Dhading, Nuwakot, Gorkha, Chitwan and Tanahun to move to safe locations.

EARLY WARNING AND PUBLIC INFORMATION (26 August 2026)

- DHM's technical report indicates that flood monitoring and public warning began shortly after information on the upstream flood was received.
- At approximately 09:15 hrs, initial warnings were issued to riverbank communities downstream along the Trishuli.
- At approximately 09:16 hrs, mass SMS warnings were transmitted through Nepal Telecom and Ncell to populations in potentially exposed areas.
- DHM reports dissemination of 679,295 SMS messages: 435,635 through Nepal Telecom; 243,660 through Ncell

- Warnings were progressively updated as the flood moved toward Galchhi, Malekhu, Muglin and Devghat, with communities repeatedly advised leaving riverbanks and move to safe locations.

GOVERNMENT / NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE

- **National coordination:** NDRRMA is coordinating the national response and issued two formal advisory letters (above) covering evacuation guidance and a special request for air/drone search-and-rescue support.
- **Prime Ministerial direction:** Prime Minister Hon Balendra Shah confirmed police and military are joining rescue and relief teams, stating instructions had been given to move people in low-lying areas to safer places and urging continued caution.
- **Security forces mobilized:** A Nepal Army MI-17 helicopter carrying a medical team has flown to the affected area, with additional rescue teams mobilized from Dhunche and Trishuli; the Armed Police Force and Nepal Police have deployed additional personnel from other districts. Floodwaters were initially too high for helicopters to land in the worst-hit areas.
- **Medical response:** Nepal Army and private helicopters have been deployed in Rasuwa and Nuwakot to expedite search and rescue. Medical teams — including doctors from the Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, the National Trauma Centre, Bir Hospital and Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital — have been deployed to Nuwakot District Hospital to treat the injured.
- **Relief for affected people:** temporary accommodation, food, clean drinking water and medicines have been arranged for flood-affected people at nearby Nepal Army barracks.
- **Humanitarian partners:** Medical teams, Scouts and the Nepal Red Cross Society have been asked to coordinate relief efforts alongside government agencies.
- **Public advisories:** District authorities are issuing continuous alerts to riverside communities along the Bhote Koshi, Trishuli and Narayani rivers and have ordered a full halt to travel on the affected highways.

NEEDS AND RESPONSE PRIORITIES

NDRRMA Status Report #02 states the following national priorities: immediate rescue and treatment of the injured; search and rescue of citizens still out of contact; protection and relief distribution for affected people; collection of detailed human and material damage data; priority reconstruction of disrupted physical infrastructure (roads, bridges, hydropower, communications and drinking water); and resettlement of displaced families to safe locations.

Immediate needs

- Search and rescue capacity (helicopters, boats, technical rescue teams) for hard-to-reach, damaged terrain in Rasuwa
- Restoration of essential services, including electricity, telecommunications and drinking-water infrastructure
- Emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water and medical supplies and other essential items for displaced and affected households
- Restoration of access, particularly damaged roads and bridges required for rescue, relief and assessment operations.
- Detailed multi-sector damage assessment of damaged roads, bridges and hydropower/solar infrastructure in the Bhote Koshi corridor to establish the full extent of impacts.

Medium-term risks

- Further downstream flooding along the Trishuli/Narayani corridor as floodwaters and debris continue through Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Chitwan and Tanahun
- Continued landslide risk given saturated slopes and an active monsoon pattern across Koshi, Bagmati and Gandaki provinces
- National power-supply strain given roughly 430 MW was reported disrupted as of 26 August (share of national hydropower capacity to be confirmed), with the Rasuwagadhi, Chilime and Trishuli-3A plants reported offline.
- Economic losses to hydropower generation and local livelihoods dependent on the damaged infrastructure

ADPC DEPLOYMENT AND RESPONSE

- ADPC has deployed experts, within **3 hours of the incident**, related to coordination, response, early recovery and technical assessment through its **Bhote-Koshi Flood Response and Recovery Mission** and are currently working with our partners on the ground.
- In response to the flash floods in Nepal, ADPC has activated its flagship Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) and local partners in Nepal are responding. PEER-trained responders from the Nepal Police, Nepal Army, Armed Police Force Nepal, and community volunteers are supporting emergency response and Search & Rescue Operations.
- ADPC has also activated the Asian Disaster Readiness Fund (ADRF) to enable a locally led, rapid and flexible response and the Ready4Recovery Facility to support early recovery.
- ADPC technical experts have been deployed on the ground to work with partners, and a rapid assessment is currently underway to identify urgent needs and priorities for response and recovery.
- ADPC stands ready to work with the Government of Nepal and its people to support a coordinated, locally led response and recovery.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Official sources

- Government of Nepal, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) — "Special Request" letter on air/drone search-and-rescue support, 10 Bhadra 2083 / 26 August 2026 (Shanti Mehta, Under Secretary/Spokesperson) — translated letter, provided directly.
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