



राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission

केन्द्रीय कार्यालय, Central Office

हरिहर भवन, पुल्चोक, ललितपुर, HariharBhawan, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal



Press Release

August 20, 2014

Ensure well-managed rescue and relief for the victims of natural disaster

The attention of National Human Rights Commission has been drawn to the incidents of villages being submerged across the country and hundreds of people being killed due to deluge and landside triggered by ongoing monsoon rain in the districts including Sindhupalchowk, Khotang, Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet, Dang, Kailali, Jajarkot, Siraha and Rautahat.

In this regard, the central, regional and sub-regional offices of the Commission have been monitoring the overall situation across the country including Morang and Siraha in eastern region, Rautahat, Dhanusha, Mahottari and Sindhuli in mid region Gorkha in western region, Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet, Salyan and Jajarkot in mid-western region including Kailali, Bajura and Siraha in far-western region.

As per the monitoring report, 156 people were killed in Mankha and Ramche landslides at Sindhupalchowk and 578 families were displaced. The report also says that due to flood, 105 people have died in various districts including Banke, Bardiya and Surkhet while 136 persons have gone missing. The report also reveals that 42 persons were injured, and 20,239 persons were displaced while 11,584 houses were affected. It is learnt that the rescue work and the distribution of relief materials including the food stuffs has been expedited in disaster hit districts.

The report also says that contagious diseases such as fever, diarrhea, cold and cough, skin rashes and conjunctivitis have been reported in the flood affected areas. Also, pregnant women, children, elderly citizens, persons with disabilities had to bear the brunt of the burden due to sudden catastrophe. The flood victims have been deprived of most essential services such as food, clothing, shelter, education and health services due to the absence of arrangement of most essential commodities including food, clothing and health treatment of the victims.

Following the sudden occurrence of the disaster, the movement of the people in various districts including the supplies of food stuff and necessary medicines, electricity and communication has been found obstructed. The drinking water supply has also been damaged at few places causing the water shortage in the incident area. A few victims reported to have come up with the grievances that the rescue and relief work including the distribution of food stuffs and clothes in the flood affected area couldn't be done effectively leaving the victims at lurch with starvation, according to the report.

The Commission, therefore, urges the Government to make necessary arrangement for the smooth supply of most essential services including rehabilitation, education and health for those left without shelter due to natural disaster and also for those at high risk of becoming the victims of homelessness.

Keeping in mind the repercussion of possible epidemics in flood affected areas, the Commission urges the Government to make necessary arrangement to mobilize health teams to tackle the situation. Similarly, the Commission also would like to draw the attention of the Government of Nepal towards establishing relief homes together with the adoption of necessary measure for well managed distribution of the relief materials to minimize the crisis well in time upon identifying the disaster prone areas.

Bed Prasad Bhattarai
Acting Secretary