

# Asal Chhimekee Nepal (ACN)

(The Social Initiative of Pokhara Christian Community)

Pokhara - 1, Kaski, Gandaki Province, Nepal

Monsoon Disasters Response Project (MDRP)

## 1. *Project Background:*

Monsoon started in Nepal, with continuous heavy rain, since 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The level of destruction that the floods have caused has once again exposed the country to further hardship besides the ongoing coronavirus crisis, as it is happening in the midst of a pandemic. The COVID-19 lockdowns have devastated the economy.

The 2020 monsoon killed a record number of people, and this year the second wave hit with full force. The other difference with last year is that the second COVID-19 wave is even more virulent and widespread. This means crowded shelters after a flood or landslide will be hotspots for new infections at a time when only 4% of the population is vaccinated. COVID and floods are contradictory in nature, as one needs physical distancing while the other makes it impossible to do so.

In Nepal, thousands of people get infected by [waterborne and vector-borne diseases](#) such as diarrhea, dysentery, cholera, typhoid, jaundice, malaria, kala-azar, scrub typhus, Japanese encephalitis and dengue during the monsoon season. In a country where people often die of diseases like diarrhea, this monsoon could expose the population to multiple risks, as the healthcare system is already under strain and health workers are working extra hours to fight the pandemic. Even if infections are not found in the shelters for the displaced people, the elderly, children, pregnant women, new mothers and those having comorbidities should be separated from others. These people are vulnerable to other monsoon-related diseases.

## 2. *Highlights of the damage caused by the floods and landslides this month:*

According to the news, a government source says that (in the third week of June) in the various flash floods 18 fatalities, 24 reports of missing people and 11 cases of injuries were recorded. 219 houses fully collapsed and 104 houses are badly damaged and cannot be lived in<sup>1,2</sup>.

In **Gandaki** province, all 11 districts have been affected by the floods and landslides. But the districts of Manang, Myagdi, and Lamjung have especially been hit hard by this early monsoon rain.

- In **Manang District**, a mountain district in the province, more than 350 people have been displaced by the floods and landslides. Around 300 people (56 families<sup>3</sup>) are taking shelter in the new building of the district prison in Chame, the district headquarters.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://drrportal.gov.np/uploads/document/1870.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.india.com/news/world/nepal-flash-floods-16-dead-22-missing-as-heavy-rains-wreak-havoc-in-nepal-4752589/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/nepal/nepal-floods-dg-echo-partner-moha-media-echo-daily-flash-16-june-2021>

- In the district of **Sindhupalcok**, people in remote Helambu Gaupalika are devastated after flash floods on 15<sup>th</sup> June. 350 houses were submerged by the floods, 60 temporary shelters collapsed, and 700 people had to be relocated to a safe location at Indreshwori Secondary School in Melamchi Municipality. Major public infrastructures have been affected, damaging bridges and road networks, while major market areas have also been inundated. The penetration of floods in market areas caused panic. There is a risk of major humanitarian damage in the area.
- In **Gorkha District**, the rain-swollen Budhigandaki River swept away 4 houses in Chumnuhari-3. 25 households from the village have been displaced. 4 houses were swept away and the whole village is at the risk of flooding. The locals have pitched tents on higher ground.
- In **Baglung District**, 30 households have been displaced after their houses were swept away by floodwaters. Burtibang bazaar, Bhimgithe of Badigad Rural Municipality, Gwalichaur and Kharbang bazaar areas have been affected by the flooded Badigad stream.
- In **Parbat District**, where 15 houses were destroyed and dozens of households displaced, relief distribution has begun according to the chief district officer of Parbat.
- In **Nawalparasi District (East)**, a motor-able bridge over the Kaligandaki River that links Dedhgau with the neighbouring Tanahun district was damaged by floods, according to the chief administrative officer of Baudikali Rural Municipality.
- Several districts of the **Lumbini** province were also affected by floods and landslides with road disruptions in many districts.
- In **Pyuthan District**, the flooded Jhimruk River swept away an under-construction motor-able bridge at Airawati Rural Municipality-1. Similarly, floods caused by incessant rains have damaged a 10-metre long causeway along Bangai-Manoharapur road in Kapilvastu district.
- In **Karnali** province, multiple landslides have occurred in various parts of Surkhet-Jumla road in Kalikot along the Karnali Highway due to incessant rainfall for the last week.
- In **Salyan District**, transportation remains disrupted along the Rapti Highway and around two dozen rural roads in the district. The landslides caused by heavy rains have blocked roads at several places. According to the district police office, around 100 vehicles, mainly goods carriers, and scores of passengers have been stranded due to the obstructions.

**3. *The recent flash-flood disasters from the hills to terai have been badly affecting all sectors of human life. The humanitarian needs have been highlighted as below:***

The recent floods and landslides in various areas of Nepal (as highlighted above) have left a trail of destruction in their wake, as the continuous heavy rain on the third week in June swept away and flooded communities - causing widespread damage and creating humanitarian emergencies that require an urgent response.

- At present, arranging a proper shelter for the displaced and providing two meals for them will be an achievement. There will be a scarcity of food, essential medicines, and a concern about the ability to provide treatment if they contract other seasonal diseases. The majority of the disaster-affected households from various districts belong to

communities where agriculture (farming) is the main source of income and primary food supply. Much of the agricultural land was flooded - destroying rice, other crops, and coconut trees. As a result, these communities can no longer meet their basic food needs and do not have access to income generating activities.

- While the Initial Rapid Assessment of the loss and damage is being conducted by the local governments (with the support of Nepal Security forces), there is an urgent need for tents, non-food items, food rations, blankets, clothes, and medical supplies (including personal health and hygiene kits).
- The second wave of COVID-19 has hit Nepal hard, with over 8,000 people losing their lives to the coronavirus in the months of May and June alone. The daily new cases have now slightly come down after restrictions were imposed in the various areas of Nepal. However, the risk is not over yet and the virus has now reached rural areas and the hill communities - the regions that are most vulnerable to flooding and landslides. The monsoon in Nepal strengthens quickly in June and peaks through July, before becoming weaker in August-September. More people are likely to be put in mass accommodation in the coming days, exposing them to the risk of contracting the virus. There is a higher chance of cluster infections in the camps/shelters of the displaced people. After cases started to decline, authorities have once again become complacent and reduced the numbers of tests being carried out. This may mean fewer daily new infections, but the percent positivity rate is still a cause for concern.
- The local governments in the affected regions, through the Department of Disaster Response Team, have been providing emergency aid focused on food packages for relief and financial assistance to families in need. In spite of an improved government response in providing immediate food supply and other forms of aid, based on the available data gathered from the field, the target beneficiaries' primary needs for food remain in need due to the flood and landslide and damage of ready-to-harvest crops in agricultural lands. Furthermore, remote communities received no or limited supplies of relief in the first week after the disaster. The particularly vulnerable are the indigenous people. Efforts are on to clear the debris by using earth movers. But the clean-up work has been difficult because the rain and landslide have not stopped yet.
- ACN/PCC have been observing the situation, and have contacted the affected areas through communicating with the local government officials and church leaders. The results from the preliminary assessment show that the priority needs for the disaster affected communities are as follows:
  1. Immediate/emergency relief support
    - a. Food and hygiene kits and tarps, kitchen utensils, and blankets
    - b. Temporary shelters
    - c. Trauma/psychosocial healing

2. Recovery support
  - a. WASH recovery
  - b. Educational support to children
  - c. House recovery
  - d. Livelihood recovery
  - e. Disaster Risk Reduction training/orientation

**4. What ACN is doing to respond to the needs of disaster affected people?**

- The monsoon disasters have struck earlier than in previous years, and are expected to continue until September. Last year they continued past September. This year, they are also contending with the COVID-19 crisis.
- We are regularly monitoring the conditions of the disaster-affected areas. Landslides have hit mainly the hilly regions and the lower areas, the terai has been affected by flooding. Nawalparasi (our main working area) has been badly affected.
- We are collaborating with other agencies to support emergency needs. Manang and most of the places (including Melamchi) have been disconnected due to road damages and the continuing rain. There has been an effort to send supplies by helicopter, but the weather has not been favourable.
- For Manang, we are supporting the affected families with tarps. We also plan to support people in Sindhupalchowk with immediate relief supplies. There have been 30 houses of Christian families swept away and we are working out how we can help these families. Most of them are now in schools and using community kitchens for food.
- We are monitoring the conditions in the Terai, particularly in Nawalparasi. The local government has already asked us to support them to respond to the needs of affected families.
- Since the monsoon rain is expected to last for the next 3 months, we have to be prepared for disaster responses later on.
- We are regularly attending network meetings at the local, provincial, and national levels. Some are led by government agencies and some by the non-governmental agencies.

**5. ACN's immediate and longer-term response plans:**

ACN has a plan to respond to the current disaster needs, and also be prepared for the later responses in the following areas:

**1. Immediate Emergency Response**

- a. 1,500 families with food and hygiene supplies.
- b. 100 families with kitchen utensils sets and blankets.
- c. 200 families with tarpaulins for immediate relief.
- d. 50 households with corrugated iron sheets for temporary (then later can be used for house) shelters.

**2. Transitional/Recovery Support:**

- a. 50 households with WASH Recovery support.

- b. 500 children with school uniforms and educational materials.
- c. 300 people to participate in the trauma healing support.
- d. 50 people with trainings on cash crops and with provision of seeds and fertilisers.
- e. 100 people with Disaster risk reduction training/orientation.
- f. 50 families with livelihood support (income generating trainings provisional to start it). This includes chickens, goats, beehives, and so on as relevant to the skills and interests of the beneficiaries.

### 3. *Reconstruction Support*

- a. 20 houses destroyed by the disasters to reconstruct.

Note: ACN has 250 food and hygiene supplies ready.

### 6. **Target Beneficiaries:**

The proposed project aims to assist the most vulnerable socio-economical groups in several affected districts in Nepal. The affected families are the ones who are amongst the most severely affected by the recent floods and landslides, and have very limited capacity and financial resources to recover from the recent devastation. Particular attention will be given to marginalised members of communities such as: female-headed households, women and widows, children, elderly, people living with disabilities, and indigenous peoples. For the relief work, ACN may consider where there is a gap in meeting emergency needs but will focus for the later response within Gandaki Pradesh.

### 7. **Organisational capacity:**

Asal Chhimekee Nepal, along with PCC, has been involved in relief response work in various locations during several disasters in Nepal such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, storms, and most recently COVID-19.

Hence, ACN's experience has shown that one of the keys to the successful achievement of the objectives of a disaster response project is community participation. The affected population should be regarded as active participants and relevant actors in the implementation of the project, rather than victims or passive recipients of assistance. Active community participation also ensures that assistance is appropriate and timely; and that community ownership and sustainability of the project are addressed and ensured as well.

Over the years, ACN has gained a good reputation through its work in the communities and in disaster response both with the beneficiaries and government agencies. Which has helped to receive favour and support in implementing projects.

### 8. **Networking and co-ordination:**

In achieving the objective of this project, ACN/PCC will actively co-operate with local government, the Disaster Response Committee, COVID-19 Response Team, community people, church leaders and congregations in order to get the actual affected people for needs assessments, situation analysis, recommendation of target beneficiaries and approval from local

government officials and management of work in the field. Aside from these, ACN will mobilise the required number of volunteers for the implementation of the relief work.

**9. *Timeframe to achieve the project:***

- |                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Immediate Relief Response      | June-September 2021        |
| • Transitional/Recovery Response | July-October 2021          |
| • Reconstruction Support         | December 2021 - March 2022 |
| • Project Closure                | May 2022                   |

**10. *Outcome:***

Building disaster-resilient communities through integrated interventions by responding to the needs of affected communities.

**11. *Project implementation method:***

ACN always appreciates partnerships with beneficiaries, local governments, and collaborative efforts with like-minded organisations where possible.

**12. *Project cost effectiveness and sustainability:***

ACN always works hard to make projects viable and cost effective, as well as ensuring sustainability by applying all possible measures towards this goal.

**13. *Project Evaluation:***

It is mandatory that the project to be evaluated by the Social Welfare Council of Nepal. The provision to conduct this has been made at the time of project approval. There will be an impact evaluation conducted, depending on the donors' requirements and availability of funds.

**14. *Reporting of the project:***

ACN will report to the beneficiaries, local government agencies, donors, and the SWC. Reports will be made available for all who are interested in the projects (on request).

**15. *Risk assessment and mitigation:***

One of the risks for the project is the potential impact of coronavirus infections and further lockdowns. The Government of Nepal preparing for and conducting elections, and further natural disasters can be perceived as high-impacting risks. Personal safety to cope with the coronavirus crisis will be ensured and, for others, regular monitoring and developing risk mitigation will be applied. Partners and relevant stakeholders will be regularly updated with any changes made due to the uncertainty of the situation.

## 16. Tentative budget - summary:

Below is the tentative budget of the project to review and become more detailed in due time.

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Monsoon Disasters Repose Project (MDRP)

S.No.	Particulars	Unit	Qty	Rate NPR	Total NPR	USD Exch	GBP Exch	Euro Exch
						Rate	Rate	Rate
						115	155	130
<b>1</b>	<b>Immediate/Emergency Response</b>				<b>13,835,000</b>	<b>120,304</b>	<b>89,258</b>	<b>106,423</b>
1.1	Food & Hygiene Supplies	No. of households	1250	5,500	6,875,000	59,783	44,355	52,885
1.2	Kitchen utensils and blankets	No. of households	100	5,500	550,000	4,783	3,548	4,231
1.3	Tarpaulins (tents)	No. of households	400	2,000	800,000	6,957	5,161	6,154
1.4	CGI Sheet (1 family, 3 bundles)	No. of bundles (tin)	150	37,400	5,610,000	48,783	36,194	43,154
<b>2</b>	<b>Transitional/Recovery Support</b>				<b>5,968,131</b>	<b>51,897</b>	<b>38,504</b>	<b>45,909</b>
2.1	WASH Recovery	No. of households	50	32,500	1,625,000	14,130	10,484	12,500
2.3	School children support (materials and uniform)	No. of students	500	5,500	2,750,000	23,913	17,742	21,154
2.4	Trauma training/orientation	No. of participants	300	1,352	405,600	3,527	2,617	3,120
2.5	<i>Trainings and provisional support - cash crops</i>				<i>323,831</i>	<i>2,816</i>	<i>2,089</i>	<i>2,491</i>
	Snacks	No. of participants	100	150	15,000	130	97	115
	Facilitation Cost	No. of days	8	13,000	104,000	904	671	800
	Communication cost	No. of Sessions	2	1,300	2,600	23	17	20
	Provisional support (seeds and fertilisers)	No. of participants	50	3,900	195,000	1,696	1,258	1,500
2.6	<i>DRR Trainings</i>				<i>136,600</i>	<i>1,188</i>	<i>881</i>	<i>1,051</i>
	Snacks	No. of participants	200	150	30,000	261	194	231
	Facilitation Cost	No. of days	8	13,000	104,000	904	671	800
	Communication cost	No. of Sessions	2	1,300	2,600	23	17	20
2.7	<i>Livelihood recovery support</i>				<i>727,100</i>	<i>6,323</i>	<i>4,691</i>	<i>5,593</i>
	Training on agriculture/livestock keeping	No. of participants	150	150	22,500	196	145	173
	Facilitation Cost	No. of days	4	13,000	52,000	452	335	400
	Communication cost	No. of Sessions	2	1,300	2,600	23	17	20
	Provisional support	No. of households	50	13,000	650,000	5,652	4,194	5,000
	<b>Total</b>				<b>19,803,131</b>	<b>172,201</b>	<b>127,762</b>	<b>152,332</b>

Note: the budget for the reconstruction of the houses will be prepared in due time.

**17. Funding:**

This project will be shared widely for prayers. Individual and institutional financial contributions will be counted towards these funds. Priority shall be set for the number quoted in the budget sheet above based on the funding availability. There might be funding from partners to a particular area of interest.

Finally, this project has been prepared in the outset of COVID-19 crisis, and any response to the disaster needs is not only disaster but also includes COVID-19 crisis response. We are very thankful for all prayers and support whatever is possible. We highly value a drop of water as it contributes to be a big ocean. We are thankful to all who have been standing with us in making differences in the lives of people, and being salt and light in the midst of the darkness of suffering.

Raju Adhikari

ACN



East-west highway, near Butwal, a bridge has been damaged and all movement has been halted.



Dozens of roads have been blocked by the landslides in the hills and traffic has been halted.



This is the conditions in many places - the surging rivers have risked the houses near to them.



Some villages in Manang, including Chamche have been hit by the flood in the local river.



Terai (plain) on the south of Nepal has been sinking in water.



Villages have been affected by the surging rivers. This is in Melamchi area.



Foot hill sites have been affected by the flash flood.



Flood flows through a village in Nawalparasi.



This is one of the areas in Nawalparasi affected by the surging river. Poor people live on the banks of the river, and they are the first affected by such floods.



This is Maheshpur in Nawalparasi a whole village drowned in the floods and rubble.



Dordikhola has swept away 2 houses with 2 agriculture farms in Lamjung, Dordi RM Hile bazaar.



Pokhara Ramghat, the surging Seti River putting the nearby slum communities at risk of damage.



Baglung, Jaimani Nagarpalika, Ward no. 7 - 20 households have been displaced due to landslides.



Baglung, Jaimani Nagarpalika, Acharya village.



Excavators being swept away by the flood in the Super Madi Hydropower Project in Kaski.