BHOTE KOSHI FLOOD RESPONSE

UPDATE

Bhote Koshi Flash Flood at a Glance

Severe flash floods on 26 August 2026 affected an estimated 84,270 people across 17 municipalities in six districts, with Rasuwa among the worst-affected areas[1]. As of 16 September, 1,403 deaths and 6,150 missing people were reported. Around 2,096 displaced people are staying in 29 holding centers across Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Dhading districts[2], where overcrowding and limited access to safe water and sanitation are increasing protection and public health risks.

Across the affected districts, more than 84,000 people (19,000 households) require WASH support, with 46 water supply systems damaged and around 10,000 toilets requiring restoration, leaving families without reliable access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services. Access constraints, particularly in Rasuwa, limited immediate assistance and the restoration of damaged WASH infrastructure

Flash floods disrupted learning for 14,000 children across 62 schools in Dhading, Nuwakot and Rasuwa, with 23 schools damaged and 25 used as temporary shelters. In Rasuwa, four health facilities were fully damaged, while damaged roads and bridges continue to limit access and aid delivery. Displacement, overcrowding, limited WASH services and protection concerns heighten risks for vulnerable groups.

[1] Inter-agency Flash Appeal for Nepal: Rasuwa Flood (4 September 2026): https://reliefweb.int/report/nepal/nepalrasuwa-flood-flash-appeal-4-september-2026

[2] National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, Rasuwa Bhotekoshi Flood: Search, Rescue and Relief Response, Situation Report No. 15, 16 September 2026.

ENPHO's Response

ENPHO is responding to the Bhote Koshi Flash Flood-August 2026, by working with the Government of Nepal, development partners and Paschim Paaila (a youth-volunteer network) to restore safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and public health services.

Deployment of Emergency Response Cell

ENPHO has immediately activated an Emergency Response Cell after the flash flood to coordinate, rapid decision-making and WASH response. The Cell integrates technical, field, logistics, communications, resource mobilization, safety and safeguarding functions. Based on assessed needs, Emergency WASH Field Mobilization Teams comprising technical specialists, youth volunteers and community mobilizers, logistics personnel and trained personnels will be deployed to affected areas.

Youth Empowerment and Mobilization

ENPHO has trained 82 youth WASH volunteers in collaboration with "Paschim Paaila" on emergency WASH response, promote safe sanitation and hygiene practices, and community support. Through practical learning and preparedness activities, the volunteers are equipped to support rapid response efforts and promote safer, more resilient practices among flood-affected communities.

Rapid WASH Assessment of Holding Center

ENPHO conducted a rapid assessment of seven holding centres in Bidur Municipality, Nuwakot, covering displaced populations relocated to these sites. Key gaps identified included inadequate sanitation and bathing facilities, limited handwashing infrastructure, and insufficient awareness of emergency WASH practices. Poor waste management, including the improper disposal of sanitary pads, was also observed. Regular drinking-water quality monitoring and treatment were identified as urgent priorities to ensure safe water and reduce public health risks among displaced populations

Piyush for Protection

In response to the urgent need for safe drinking water following the Bhote Koshi floods, ENPHO has scaled up production and distribution of Piyush chlorine solution to help prevent waterborne diseases. To date, 52,835 bottles have been dispatched for distribution upon demand and in coordination with different development partners to affected communities, including 1,000 bottles supported to Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management and 2,000 bottles distributed through ENPHO's staff contribution.

Water Quality Surveillance

ENPHO, in collaboration of different other water testing labs conducted water quality surveillance in flood-affected communities by testing 38 samples of different drinking water sources including taps, household storage containers, spring sources, across Nuwakot and Rasuwa districts. Results showed 50% of samples contaminated with E.Coli including 60% of samples of Nuwakot, highlighting an urgent need to promote safe water handling and treatment measures to reduce the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks.

Additionally, Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) testing was conducted at 31 water points, including tanker supplies and reservoir tanks at holding centres, to verify chlorination of drinking water. Results showed 35% of water points had no detectable chlorine. Continued monitoring and stronger regulation of chlorination practices by water suppliers are therefore essential

Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

ENPHO, in collaboration with Paschim Paaila, has mobilized trained youth WASH volunteers in flood-affected areas of Bidur Municipality to promote safe sanitation and hygiene practices during the emergency. Volunteers have supported more than 500 people with sanitation and hygiene awareness and proper use of Piyush for drinking-water chlorination.

Construction of Ready-to-Install Toilets

ENPHO has constructed 12 Ready-to-Install (RTI) toiletsin Bidur Municipality, Nuwakot, and installed them at holding centres for displaced populations and the Armed Police Force office premises, ensuring access to safe, dignified, and accessible sanitation facilities for affected communities.

Future Response Plan and Priorities

ENPHO will continue to prioritize immediate WASH needs while supporting the restoration of essential services in flood-affected communities in Nuwakot and other affected areas. Key actions include:

01

Intensify drinking-water quality surveillance

Regular water quality testing and Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) monitoring at water sources, distribution points and household storage facilities to ensure safe drinking water.

02

Rehabilitate damaged water supply systems

Support the repair and rehabilitation of affected water supply schemes in coordination with local authorities and the WASH Cluster, prioritizing communities with limited or no access to safe water.

03

Expand emergency sanitation facilities

Construct and install Ready-to-Install (RTI) toilets and bathing stations at temporary settlements, holding centres and other locations hosting displaced and affected families.

04

Strengthen solid and faecal waste management

Support appropriate collection, containment, transportation and disposal of solid waste and faecal waste to reduce environmental contamination and public health risks.

05

Install hand hygiene facilities

Establish functional handwashing stations at holding centres, temporary settlements, public spaces and other high-use locations, with regular provision of water and soap

06

Promote sanitation and hygiene practices

Mobilize trained WASH volunteers and community actors to promote safe water handling, sanitation, hand hygiene, household water treatment and appropriate use of Piyush

07

Distribute essential WASH supplies

Provide WASH kits to affected and displaced households, prioritizing vulnerable families and communities with limited access to essential hygiene materials.