

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 26 September, 1,453 deaths and 5,285 missing people were reported. Around 1,109 affected people are sheltering in 21 holding centres: 805 in 9 centers in Rasuwa, 183 in 8 centers in Nuwakot, and 121 in 4 centers in Dhading. Although response activities are ongoing, limited access to safe water and sanitation remains a key challenge in affected areas, increasing public health and protection risks.

WASH interventions will continue to prioritize the safety, reliability, and accessibility of water and sanitation services in affected communities. This will include regular water quality testing at source, distribution, and household levels, along with close monitoring of restored water supply systems to ensure they remain functional and provide safe water. Where piped supplies are still disrupted or insufficient, water trucking, temporary storage, and appropriate purification measures will be sustained to meet immediate needs. Hygiene facilities and essential WASH services will also be maintained across temporary settlements, camps, schools, and other priority institutions to reduce public health risks, support safe hygiene practices, and ensure continuity of essential services for affected populations.



[1] Inter-agency Flash Appeal for Nepal: Rasuwa Flood (26 September 2026): <https://reliefweb.int/report/nepal/nepalrasuwa-flood-flash-appeal-26-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 including WaterAid Nepal, Sign of Hope Nepal Rising and Paschim Paaila (a youth-volunteer network) to restore safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and public health services in the affected areas.

Deployment of Emergency Response Team

EENPHO immediately activated an Emergency Response Cell after the flash flood and deployed an Emergency WASH Response Team to coordinate, collaborate, and deliver WASH support to the affected population. The Response Team comprises public health professionals, engineers, trainers, youth volunteers, and community mobilizers, supported by technical, logistics, communications, resource mobilization, safety, and safeguarding functions.



Capacity Strengthening of Youth, Development Partners, and Local Government



ENPHO has strengthened the capacity of 108 people, including 82 youth volunteers, 21 development partner staff, and 5 government staff, through Emergency WASH Response Training. The training covered safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices, water quality testing and surveillance, drinking water treatment and chlorination, and solid waste management. Conducted in collaboration with Paschim Paaila, Nuwakot WASH Cluster, WaterAid Nepal, Nepal Rising, Sign of Hope and Local Governments, the training enhanced effective and timely WASH response while promoting safer and more resilient practices among flood-affected communities.

Critical Water Infrastructure/Services Restored

Based on the rapid assessment and in consultation with District WASH Cluster-Nuwakot, ENPHO provided support to restore water services to affected communities including Rai Tole/Bhimisen School, Apghari Tole and Baghtar/Colony of Nuwakot. The restoration action included providing water supply pipes and fittings, a water storage tank with communal taps, and required water pumps serving around 250 households with drinking water. Two water supply schemes are under construction, while one has been completed.



Safe Water and Quality Surveillance



Following the Bhote Koshi floods, ENPHO significantly scaled up its emergency water-quality response, including the production and distribution of Piyush chlorine solution. A total of 52,835 bottles of Piyush were dispatched for distribution to affected communities based on demand and in coordination with development partners and government agencies. In addition, 25 jars of 1% chlorine solution, 4 Water Quality Field Test Kits, 25 Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) Test Kits, and 200 Coliform Presence/Absence (P/A) Vials were provided in Nuwakot to support drinking-water chlorination, field-level monitoring, and water-quality testing.

Hand Hygiene Services

It is planned to install child- and disability-friendly handwashing facilities at key locations, promoting proper hand hygiene among flood-affected populations and helping prevent the spread of waterborne and hygiene-related diseases.



A key strength of ENPHO's response has been the operation of its own water-quality testing laboratory, enabling timely testing, surveillance, and technical analysis of drinking-water quality in flood-affected areas. Through its laboratory and in collaboration with other water-testing laboratories, ENPHO tested 42 drinking-water samples from Nuwakot and Rasuwa, of which 54% were found to be contaminated with *E. coli*. FRC testing conducted at 43 water points further showed that 39% had no detectable residual chlorine, highlighting the need for continued water-quality monitoring, strengthened chlorination, and safe water-handling practices. Based on these findings, ENPHO promptly chlorinated water points and storage tanks where *E. coli* contamination was detected or residual chlorine was absent. Water quality continues to be monitored through ENPHO's laboratory and field-testing systems using Water Quality Field Test Kits to help ensure safe drinking water for flood-affected communities.

Support for Safe, Inclusive and Dignified Sanitation Services



ENPHO constructed and installed 15 Ready-to-Install (RTI) toilets in Bidur Municipality, Nuwakot, at holding centers, Temporary Shelters for displaced populations, and Armed Police Force premises, providing safe, dignified, and accessible sanitation facilities.

Additionally, 2 bathing facilities are being installed at Bada Chautara Camp A, ensuring proper and adequate facilities for personal hygiene and sanitation. At the same time, 20 waste bins were distributed in holding centres and Temporary Shelters to support the proper collection and management of solid waste.

Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

ENPHO, in collaboration with Paschim Paaila and the local government, 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 300 people with sanitation and hygiene awareness and proper use of Piyush for drinking-water chlorination.



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 Rasuwa. Key actions include:

- 01 Expand emergency sanitation facilities**
 Install RTI toilets and bathing facilities in temporary settlements, holding centres, schools, healthcare facilities, and other public institutions to provide safe, dignified sanitation and support continuity of essential services.
- 02 Restore water supply services**
 Repair damaged water supply systems and install appropriate treatment solutions, including automated chlorine dosing, prioritizing communities with limited or no access to safe drinking water.
- 03 Monitor water quality and safety**
 Continue water quality and free residual chlorine (FRC) monitoring at water sources, distribution points, and households, while training local volunteers to use water quality and FRC test kits.
- 04 Install hand hygiene facilities**
 Establish child- and disability-friendly handwashing stations in temporary settlements, holding centres, public spaces, schools, and healthcare facilities.
- 05 Empower and mobilize youth**
 Train and mobilize WASH volunteers and community actors to promote safe water handling, sanitation, hand hygiene, and household water treatment practices.
- 06 Distribute essential WASH supplies**
 Provide WASH kits, dignity kits, and environmental cleaning materials to affected and displaced households, prioritizing vulnerable and underserved communities.
- 07 Strengthen solid and faecal waste management:**
 Support safe collection, containment, transport, treatment, and disposal of solid and faecal waste to reduce environmental contamination and public health risks.