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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 6 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, Enfants du Monde, 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.

Key Response Highlights

- Strengthened the emergency WASH response capacity of **132** individuals, including youth volunteers, development partners, and local government representatives.
- Restored **three** water supply schemes benefiting **250** flood-affected families, with restoration of **4** additional schemes ongoing.
- Distributed over **52,000** Piyush bottles for household water chlorination and **45** units of 1% chlorine solution for water storage tank disinfection.
- Conducted regular drinking water quality testing at over **142** samples from different water sources, taps, and storage tanks.
- Installed **three** inclusive, child- and disability-friendly handwashing stations, with **2** additional installations underway.
- Installed **21** ready-to-install toilets and constructed **10** bathing facilities, with additional facilities under construction in priority areas.
- **40** waste bins were installed and supported Bidur Municipality in waste collection and transportation from temporary shelters.
- Reached over **814** flood-affected people with key emergency WASH and hygiene messages through awareness campaigns and Global Handwashing Day activities.

Capacity Strengthening of Local Volunteers of Bidur Municipality, Development Partners, and Local Government

ENPHO has strengthened the capacity of 132 people, including 106 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, the Nuwakot WASH Cluster, WaterAid Nepal, Nepal Rising, Sign of Hope, and Local Governments, the training strengthened effective, timely WASH response while promoting safer, 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 in Rai Tole/Bhimsen School, Apghari Tole and Baghtar/Colony of Bidur Municipality, Nuwakot. The construction of three water supply schemes have already been completed. 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.

Hand Hygiene Services

A total of 3 child and disability friendly handwashing facilities have been installed: 1 at Armed Police Force (APF) premises and 2 at Bhimsen School. Installation of an additional facilities at Indrayani School and temporary camp at Trishuli is planned. These facilities aim to promote proper hand hygiene among flood-affected populations and help prevent the spread of waterborne and hygiene-related diseases.



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, 45 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.

Further, to support the emergency water quality response, ENPHO have set up its own water-quality testing laboratory to provide the services in Bidur Municipality. Through its laboratory and in collaboration with other water-testing laboratories, ENPHO tested 55 raw drinking-water samples from Nuwakot and Rasuwa, of which 58% were found to be contaminated with E. coli. FRC testing conducted at 149 water points further showed that 19% had no detectable residual chlorine, while 4% had chlorine above the range highlighting the need for continued water-quality monitoring, strengthened chlorination, and safe water-handling practices. Based on these findings, ENPHO has been promptly acting on chlorinating 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 21 Ready-to-Install (RTI) toilets in Bidur Municipality, Nuwakot, at holding centers, temporary Shelters for displaced populations, APF premises, and Belkotgadhi Municipality, providing safe, dignified, and accessible sanitation facilities. Additionally, 10 bathing facilities have been installed at Bada Chautara Camp A, and APF ensuring proper and adequate facilities for personal hygiene and sanitation. Further, the plans to install additional bathing station are underway in two new temporary camps, in Gangate and NEA site across Trisuli river.

Solid Waste Management

ENPHO has been supporting improved solid waste management through the provision of waste bins to facilitate proper waste segregation, collection, and disposal. A total of 40 waste bins have been distributed across holding centres and temporary shelters to promote cleaner and more hygienic surroundings. Additionally, ENPHO has supported Bidur Municipality by facilitating waste collection truck services to collect and transport solid waste generated from different temporary shelters. These efforts aim to strengthen waste management practices, reduce improper waste disposal, and minimise environmental and public health risks within the affected communities.



Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

ENPHO, in collaboration with Paschim Paaila and the local government, has mobilised trained youth WASH volunteers across flood-affected areas of Bidur Municipality to promote safe sanitation and hygiene practices during the emergency. Trained local volunteers have reached more than 814 people with key messages on proper handwashing, safe drinking-water handling, household water chlorination using Piyush, and improved sanitation and hygiene practices.



Furthermore, local volunteers from eight wards conducted community level awareness activities, reaching 289 people with key WASH messages. These activities promoted community engagement, strengthened awareness of disease prevention, and encouraged safer sanitation and hygiene practices to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases.

Celebration of Global Handwashing Day







On the occasion of Global Handwashing Day in October 15, an art competition was organized for children from holding centres under the theme “Be a Handwashing Hero.” About 24 children participated in the competition, providing an opportunity to creatively express and reinforce key handwashing and hygiene promotion messages.

Furthermore, a morning rally was organised by Bidur Municipality in coordination with ENPHO, with the participation of various WASH Cluster organisations and agencies. The rally brought together local community people, ward chairpersons, and other stakeholders, with more than 200 participants.

The event served as an important platform to raise awareness and disseminate key messages on hand hygiene and hygiene promotion among the wider community in Bidur Municipality. Additionally, the local volunteers organized a hygiene promotion event in their own community, emphasizing the critical times of handwashing and demonstrating the techniques of handwashing.

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.

01

Expand emergency sanitation facilities

Install RTI toilets and bathing facilities in temporary camps, 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 o use water quality and FRC test kits.

04

Install hand hygiene facilities

Establish child- and disability-friendly handwashing stations in temporary camps and settlements, holding centres, public spaces, schools, and healthcare facilities.

05

Hands-on Training on Plumbing and Masonry work

Provide hands-on training for selected local masons and community technicians on the plumbing and masonry work ensuring availability of workforce and community engagement in repair and reconstruct damaged water and sanitation infrastructures.

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.

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