

# OXFAM'S FLOOD RESPONSE IN KANCHANPUR



OXFAM



*The flood in Kanchanpur has displaced many households with people seeking shelter in schools and public buildings.  
Photo: Kumod Lekhak/Oxfam*

Kanchanpur, a southwestern Tarai district in Sudurpaschim Province, received heavy rainfall from 6-8 July 2024 which resulted in inundation and flooding across the district.

According to Attariya-based Mahakali Basin Field Office under the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, the station recorded 573 millimetres of rainfall in Dodhara Chandani Municipality of Kanchanpur in 24 hours, the highest recorded in the period.

The flood displaced settlements particularly in:

- Bheemdatta Municipality – Wards 9, 11, 12, 13, and 18
- Dodhara Chandani Municipality – Areas such as Dhakna Ghat, Kutiyakabar, Rampure Tappu, and Jarkatole
- Beldandi Rural Municipality – Imaliya, Ratanpur, Gadda, Jhilmila, Kamari, Jharnasagar.

Approximately 17,330 people were impacted, with 800 households seeking shelter in schools, while some moving to public buildings or with their relatives. The local administration, along with various humanitarian organizations, worked to provide immediate relief and assess the full extent of the damage. However, the significant damage to roads and widespread power outages complicated rescue operations and aid distribution in the area.

## Response

Oxfam as a global organization has been spearheading humanitarian action during crises across the 81 countries where we operate. In Nepal, Oxfam responds just as quickly, taking immediate action.

As reports and information about the flooding in Kanchanpur district poured in, Oxfam and

partner organization, NEEDS Nepal immediately mobilized a team for response activities.

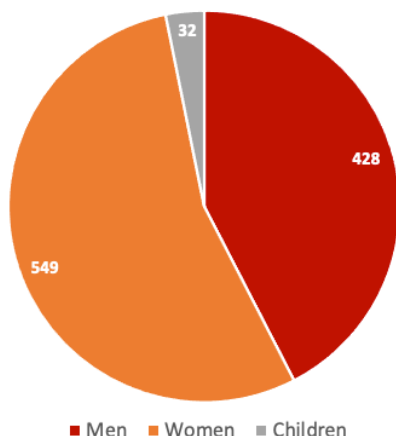
### Our immediate response included:

- Activation of Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) including Early Warning task force team and search and rescue team.
- Search and rescue operations in collaboration with residents, ward officials, and security forces.
- Evacuation of affected individuals to safe shelters.
- Medical assistance provided to the injured through hospital collaboration.
- Produced SitRep in coordination with other humanitarian organizations and local agencies
- Proactively engaged in coordination and collaborative action with like-minded organizations and local government.

In addition to this, humanitarian assistance was extended to flood affected communities in the form of:

- Distribution of food and non-food supplies.
- Establishment of health camps for sanitation and hygiene.
- Data collection for further assistance.

Food Item Support\*



## Temporary shelter: 35 Households (Support included Tarpaulin, Mattress, & Mosquito net)



Food items being distributed to affected communities.  
Photo: Dibya Dev Pandit/NEEDS, Nepal



At midnight of 6 July 2024, Jogbudha River had breached the danger zone and entered the settlements. I immediately contacted the CDMC chairperson and with the support of CDMC members, I alerted the community with a siren. This facilitated the safe relocation of residents and their belongings. The trainings I received on search and rescue and early warning system management were crucial in helping me save 80 individuals.

- Prem Bahadur Rokaya, 30  
CDMC Member, Dodhara Chandani Municipality

## Challenges

Oxfam's flood response initiative faced various challenges including:

- **Transportation:** Roads were damaged at various sections which hampered rescue and relief efforts.
- **C o m m u n i c a t i o n :** C o m m u n i c a t i o n breakdown due to power outages complicated coordination efforts.
- **Lack of Electricity:** Widespread power outages affected the efficiency of rescue operations and aid distribution.
- **Lack of trained personnel** for situation-specific rescue operations.

- Need for emergency WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities.

## Recommendation

- Prioritizing anticipatory actions in flood-prone areas.
- Improving coordination with local authorities for effective resource distribution.
- Flood-resistant building construction should be mandated as part of the municipality's minimum building standards.
- Community shelter houses should be established in flood-prone areas, designed within an inclusive framework.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding safeguarding, please contact the following number **16600150076** or send an email at [speakup@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:speakup@oxfam.org.uk) For feedback and complains related to programme, please contact the following numbers: NTC: 9851179358; Ncell: 9801571204

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