

CARE Nepal
Rasuwa Flood and landslide Response Concept Note
28 August 2026

Background:

A sudden and unprecedented flood entered the Bhote Koshi (Lhende Khola) River from the Tibetan side of China at around 09:00 on 26 August 2026, causing extensive damage in Rasuwa and triggering high-alert warnings downstream to Muglin. A possible Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), potentially linked to an ice avalanche and upstream damming of the Lhende River, is among the suspected causes, with investigations ongoing. The flood swept through Timure and Syabrubesi, damaging settlements, markets, the Timure Customs Office, hydropower infrastructure and transport routes, while rapidly raising water levels along the Trishuli and increasing risks for downstream communities.

The situation remains rapidly evolving. As of August 28, overall death toll has risen to 538 people, with more than 1,500 still missing, according to the disaster authority. As per UNRCO report, approximately 10,000 households have been impacted across Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading. The figure is expected to increase as situation unfolds. Roads, bridges, markets and critical infrastructure have sustained major damage, severely disrupting access, trade and rescue operations. The Government has declared Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading disaster crisis-hit areas for three months.

Electricity and telephone services remain unavailable across most affected areas, with only limited network coverage in some locations. The DHM has forecasted the possibility of further flash flooding, increasing fear and anxiety among communities and creating additional risks for responders and affected populations.

Immediate Needs:

Immediate needs include food, safe drinking water, emergency shelter and NFIs, hygiene supplies, medical assistance, protection and evacuation support. Continued access constraints, communication disruptions, secondary flood and landslide risks, and rapidly changing needs require a flexible response. Surge funding is urgently needed to enable rapid life-saving assistance, support localized assessments and protection measures, strengthen logistics and emergency supplies, and adapt the response as verified needs emerge.

Women and girls urgently need safe and private shelter, WASH facilities, food, clean water and essential items. Pregnant and post-partum women require nutritious food and appropriate health support, while adolescent girls need menstrual hygiene and dignity kits. Safe spaces, protection messaging, GBV risk-prevention information, psychosocial support and referral services are critical, particularly for women and girls with specific needs.

Men and boys require food, water, shelter, hygiene supplies, clothing, essential household items, healthcare and psychosocial support. Particular attention is needed for men and adolescent boys involved in rescue and other high-risk activities.

Children require nutritious food, safe water, hygiene facilities, shelter, healthcare and protection. Infants and young children will be supported through Nyano Jhola (baby kits), while child-friendly safe spaces and psychosocial first aid will support children experiencing distress or displacement. Older people and people with disabilities require accessible shelter and WASH, age- and disability-appropriate food and essential items, healthcare, mobility and safe evacuation support.

CARE and partners' capacity to respond.

CARE Nepal has the operational capacity, systems and experienced personnel to mount a rapid humanitarian response. All CARE staff, including field-based staff, have been confirmed safe following the floods. CARE is actively participating in humanitarian coordination and cluster meetings, including the Protection Cluster, and remains operational and ready to scale up response activities.

CARE Nepal has extensive experience responding to floods, landslides, earthquakes and other natural disasters, including major flood responses in 2017, 2018 and 2021 and the 2024 Kavrepalanchowk flood response. CARE has well-established emergency preparedness and response systems, including a tested Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) and SOPs, as well as experienced Rapid Response Team (RRT) and Emergency Response Team (ERT) members with prior humanitarian response experience.

CARE will implement relief activities through experienced local partners with strong presence and networks in the affected districts: Manekor Society Nepal in Rasuwa, Community Development Centre (CDC) Nepal in Nuwakot, and Sahayatri Samaj in Dhading. These partners have established community relationships, contextual knowledge and experience responding to disasters. Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC) is also being engaged in Rasuwa, building on its strong local network and ongoing initiatives in Rasuwa and Nuwakot.

Together, CARE and its partners will rapidly mobilize personnel, supplies, local networks and coordination mechanisms to deliver timely, locally led and accountable assistance to affected communities.

CARE's response

CARE's response will address the immediate and differentiated needs of women, men, girls and boys during the first month, prioritizing displaced households, families who have lost shelter or essential belongings, and those facing disrupted access to food, water and sanitation.

Across all groups, CARE will ensure assistance is gender-responsive, inclusive, safe and accessible, prioritizing female-headed households, persons with disabilities, older people, pregnant and lactating women, children and other groups facing heightened vulnerability.

CARE Nepal will mobilize Manekor, CSRC Nepal, CDC Nepal and Sahayatri Samaj for implementation of response actions on the ground. Majority of the field level activities will be implemented by the partners with the overall technical guidance from CARE Nepal. CARE will provide management, technical and financial oversight and will ensure quality of delivery with humanitarian standards and accountability principles.

Goal, objectives, and activities:

The overall goal of the response is to meet the immediate, lifesaving and essential needs of 600 flood-affected households particularly on temporary shelter, food, water and NFIs, protect lives, dignity and

safeguarding concerns, and reduce the risks faced by the most vulnerable households during the initial phase of the emergency.

CARE's initial actions will focus on addressing critical needs during the first month of the response, prioritizing households that have experienced displacement, loss of shelter, damage to essential household items, and disruption of access to food, water and sanitation. The specific objectives are to:

- Provide immediate food assistance, including ready-to-eat food, to affected households facing food insecurity and disrupted access to markets and cooking facilities.
- Support temporary shelter and essential household needs through emergency shelter materials, bedding and other priority non-food items.
- Ensure access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases and protect public health.
- Provide essential clothing, dignity-related items and psychosocial counselling, particularly for households that have lost belongings or whose homes have been inundated.
- Conduct RGA to identify the differential needs of affected population

While doing so, CARE will prioritize vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, children, older people, persons with disabilities and female-headed households, ensuring that assistance is safe, inclusive and responsive to their specific needs.

CARE will provide first-line emergency assistance to flood-affected households in Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading districts of Bagmati Province, focusing on critical needs during the initial three months of the response. Activities will prioritize displaced households, families who have lost shelter or essential belongings, and those facing disrupted access to food, water and sanitation.

Shelter, Food, WASH and Essential Items

- Distribute ready-to-eat food and nutritious food to affected households, with specific consideration for pregnant and post-partum women, children and older people.
- Provide emergency shelter kits, bedding, clothing, winterization materials and essential household items.
- Distribute kitchen utensils and cooking stoves where households can resume cooking.
- Distribute hygiene kit to promote safe water sanitation and hygiene among affected population
- Support impacted households with family tent.
- Construction of bathing space with water facilities at temporary displaced locations.
- bathing space with essential WASH services.
- Distribute baby kits (*Nyano Jhola*) for families with infants and young children.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion

- Establish and operate gender-responsive temporary safe spaces for women and girls.
- Provide dignity/adolescent kits (*Kishori kits*) and protection information in local languages, including SRH and GBV risk-prevention messages.
- Provide psychosocial first aid, counselling, outreach and referrals to MHPSS services, with particular attention to children and adolescents.
- Awareness raising session on protection and safeguarding focusing adolescent girls and boys

Beneficiary and Funding target:

CARE Nepal is seeking US\$3M to reach 22,500 beneficiaries during three months of the response