

Nepal: Deadly Flash Floods

August 26, 2026, No. 1

Key figures

- 157+ deaths¹
- 400+ missing
- 10,000 households in need²

Highlights

- 26 August 2026: A glacial lake outburst flood on the Bhote Koshi River struck around 09:00am local time, sending a wall of water through communities without warning
- The government has declared Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading disaster crisis zones following extreme flooding in the three districts
- Buildings, roads, homes, and bridges have been swept through and destroyed
- 12 power plants damaged causing significant disruption to electricity supply
- Search operations are under way on both sides of the border
- The death toll is expected to rise significantly in the coming days
- Current affected areas include Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, and Chitwan

Situation Overview

On 26 August 2026, a massive flash flood surged down the Bhote Koshi River from the Tibet Autonomous Region in China into Nepal's Rasuwa district before cascading downstream through Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, and Chitwan. Assessments are still going on to determine the cause of the flooding. Initial assessments point to a glacial lake outburst flood, potentially triggered by an earthquake recorded that morning ~100 km north-northwest of Kathmandu. Entire settlements, including Timure, Syaphrubesi, Hakubesi, Mailung, and Shantibazar in Rasuwa, and Betrawati and Trishuli Bazaar in Nuwakot, have been inundated or sustained significant damage. The flooding also damaged the Gyirong Port on the China-Nepal border, causing casualties and missing persons on both sides of the border. Evacuation orders are in place along the Trishuli River corridor covering parts of Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, and Chitwan. The Nepal Army and other security forces are conducting emergency search, rescue, evacuation, and relief operations, including helicopter airlifts of survivors and deployment of medical teams. Access to several affected areas remains constrained by damaged roads and high water levels.

Humanitarian Situation and Needs

10,000 households have been identified as in immediate need of assistance (UN News/OCHA), a figure expected to rise as access improves and assessments continue. Road and bridge damage is severely constraining assessment and response activities. According to the Deputy Director General and spokesperson of the Department of Roads, the entire 42 km road from Betrawati in Nuwakot to the Rasuwagadhi border crossing has been damaged or washed away, with several concrete bridges destroyed; a further 16 km stretch from Syaphrubesi towards the border is still being assessed. Across

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2026/08/26/world/nepal-floods>

² <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/08/1168208>

the broader Trishuli corridor, at least 19 bridges have been damaged and 40 km of road affected (Department of Roads).

The scale and breadth of destruction points to severe and wide-ranging humanitarian needs. Thousands of families have lost their homes and livelihoods with little or no warning, and many remain cut off without access to food, clean water and sanitation services, or medical care. The immediate priorities include search and rescue operations, emergency shelter for displaced households, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services, food assistance, emergency non-food items such as shelter kits and hygiene supplies, first aid and medical care, protection and mental health services, and restoration of physical access to isolated communities.

Corus Response Efforts

Corus has committed an initial \$100,000 to response efforts. **In Nepal, Corus International operates as Lutheran World Relief (LWR).** LWR has an established presence in the affected provinces of Bagmati and Gandaki and is actively coordinating with local partners, government stakeholders, and humanitarian actors to assess the evolving situation, understand access constraints, and identify priority response needs. Through partner networks with operational experience in the affected districts of Chitwan, Dhading, and Nuwakot, LWR is gathering information on the scale and severity of impacts, particularly among vulnerable households and communities facing displacement. The organization is working closely with partners to monitor conditions on the ground, plan rapid needs assessments, and inform response planning as additional information becomes available.

Corus in Nepal

Corus organization Lutheran World Relief has operated in Nepal since 2009, partnering with government institutions, local organizations and communities to address health, livelihoods, disaster resilience and climate-related challenges. The organization currently has ongoing programs in Chitwan and Nawalparasi and has collaborated with more than 170 Nepali organizations to implement programs focused on community health, disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, economic development and data-driven decision-making.

Lutheran World Relief also brings direct experience responding to major disasters in Nepal. Following the 2015 earthquake, the organization mobilized its disaster response resources in some of the districts most severely affected, including Nuwakot and Rasuwa. Today, Lutheran World Relief supports disaster risk reduction and resilience programming in Nepal by strengthening community preparedness, climate adaptation, disaster risk management systems and local response capacity in partnership with government institutions and local organizations.

Building on this experience, Lutheran World Relief is currently advancing flood and disaster resilience through initiatives that improve early warning systems, strengthen climate-resilient health and community infrastructure, and help vulnerable communities prepare for and respond to climate-related shocks.

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Corus International is an international development organization that unites an array of nonprofit organizations and businesses, including IMA World Health, Lutheran World Relief, CGA Technologies, Ground Up Investing, and Farmers Market Brands. Together, the Corus organizations deliver the holistic solutions needed to achieve lasting change.