



Nepal Flash Floods & Landslides

Situation Report

August 31, 2026

Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team is in Nepal, mobilizing mobile medical teams that will provide urgently needed care to communities devastated by the flash floods and landslides caused by last week's massive glacier avalanche.

Situational Context

Entire villages, roads, bridges, electricity systems, and health facilities were wiped out after a glacier avalanche near the Nepal-China border triggered massive floods, apocalyptic landslides, and registered a force equal to a 5.2-magnitude earthquake.

Casualty figures are likely to rise as search-and-recovery efforts continue, with current reporting showing 939 people dead and 4,247 missing in Nepal. Chinese authorities have also reported 16 fatalities and 546 missing. These numbers include tourists from dozens of countries and local community members that were caught by floodwaters as children headed to school and people started their workdays. The affected area is a popular tourist area where people go on pilgrimage to Tibet's Mount Kailash, a sacred site for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and other religious groups.

Nepal's government has been forced to begin mass burials in some areas after the amount of bodies washing ashore began to significantly exceed morgue capacity.

Key Statistics

↑ Casualties increased significantly overnight, with over 4,200 missing and nearly 1,000 dead in Nepal

➡ With monsoon season actively underway, the affected region continues to be on watch for additional flooding

Project HOPE Updates

- Project HOPE is mobilizing mobile medical units, in coordination with partners, with services set to begin on Tuesday, September 1.
- Project HOPE continues to coordinate response efforts with local, national, and international humanitarian partners, focusing on keeping Nepal's health system functional and supporting recovering families.

This disaster left a roughly 40-mile path of destruction, but the flow of debris traveled as far as 62 miles and there are reports of bodies washing ashore up to 250 miles downstream in Nepal and 100 miles downstream in neighboring India.

As access improves along the Trishuli River, the scale of humanitarian need is becoming clear. Affected communities will need support to meet nearly every basic need across the health; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); mental health and psychosocial (MHPSS); food; essential non-food (NFI) item; and other sectors.

Monsoon season and the threat of secondary disasters are making recovery efforts more difficult as conditions remain dangerous. Heavy rains over the last few days have swelled the Trishuli River and increased threats to already affected communities. Nepali authorities are also encouraging communities and first responders to remain on high alert as the Bhotekoshi River has continued to rise.

Project HOPE's Response

Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team has been on the ground in Nepal since Thursday, working with our local partner, Volunteer Corps Nepal, to mobilize mobile medical units (MMUs) on both sides of the Trishuli River. Project HOPE's MMU activities are set to begin on Tuesday, September 1 and will focus on providing care in Trishuli Koloni, Tupche, and Bidur. Project HOPE's rapid needs assessments revealed the following:

- **There is a notable gap in access to services on the western and northern sides of the Trishuli River**, with communities on that side harder to access and humanitarian needs especially pronounced.
 - **Project HOPE has been able to overcome the logistical and geographic difficulties to reach these harder-to-access areas** and is moving quickly to establish MMU services in these locations.
 - While deep humanitarian needs exist on both sides of the river, there is a concentration of humanitarian partners accessing the eastern and southern portions of the river. Project HOPE is working closely with local officials to ensure that families in the hardest-to-reach communities are not forgotten.
- People in affected communities have lost their homes and **residents struggle to access adequate shelter, clothing, food, healthcare, medication**, and other essential services.
- Government authorities have set up a few health posts along the northern and western sides of the river, but many of those teams **require urgent relief and surge staff support** to continue providing services.
- As additional communities are evacuated, or if flooding continues, shelters closer to Kathmandu that currently have adequate access to healthcare, WASH support, MHPSS services, food, and NFI distributions **could see an overwhelming increase in demand** and become overcrowded.
- There is a **significant need for mosquito nets**, with dengue fever season beginning in September and lasting through November.
 - Crowded shelter conditions create a **high risk of dengue transmission** due to close proximity, reduced access to healthcare, and vague symptoms like high fever, severe aches, and rashes appearing 4-10 days after a mosquito bite.
- **Diarrheal diseases are a significant risk in crowded shelters** and communities lacking adequate WASH support, especially areas struggling with waste management and proper burial practices for the deceased.

“In 20 years of emergency response, I have never seen such devastation. There is an increasingly dire need for basic support and services across the 40+ mile span of the flood’s destruction, and the risk of rising waters will exacerbate everything.”

— Vlatko Uzevski, Project HOPE Response Team Lead

- **Significant mental health needs stretch across the impacted areas** as families grapple with the sudden onset of the flooding, their traumatic experiences, and the long-term fears present.
 - First responders, health workers, and other people with acute exposure to the devastation will require targeted mental health support in the coming days, weeks, and months.

Project HOPE has extensive experience in Nepal, spanning emergency response work and longer-term health programming. In **2015**, Project HOPE was one of the first organizations to coordinate relief efforts in Nepal following the devastating 7.8-magnitude earthquake. During that response, Project HOPE deployed medical volunteers that cared for 1,522 patients and delivered more than \$15.8 million in urgently needed medicines and supplies, ultimately benefitting an estimated 231,976 patients.

Then, in **2016** and **2017**, Project HOPE stayed in Nepal, working with midwives and local communities to improve maternal and child health outcomes for over 5,000 women and children through door-to-door health visits, nutrition programs, and other services. In **2021**, as the COVID-19 pandemic spawned deadly waves of the Delta variant, shortages of medicines, beds, ventilators, oxygen, PPE, and other critical supplies left health workers in Nepal under-equipped to combat the virus. In response, Project HOPE trained over 4,500 health workers and distributed more than 1.7 million pieces of PPE and medical equipment to 13 hospitals and six healthcare centers, focusing on the hard hit Lumbini Province.

As the current disaster evolves, Project HOPE is committed to providing rapid support and responding to affected communities' most urgent needs. As we do in all emergency responses, Project HOPE is working closely with local, national, and international humanitarian partners, including coordination clusters.

*“The situation is still developing, but **behind every number is a family and a community affected by this disaster.** Right now, the priority is reaching those communities, understanding what they need, and making sure assistance gets to the people who need it most.”*

— **Emad Al Shammari, Project HOPE Senior Director, Global Supply Chain & Security**



Project HOPE's team in Nepal surveys damage in Devighatz, where flash floods caused widespread destruction and buried entire stories of buildings under a thick layer of mud. Photo by Sandesh Tamang for Project HOPE, 2026.

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