



Natural Disaster Updates:

India, 1 August: Rain brings monsoon death toll to 920

Flooding caused by monsoon rains that have prevailed over northern India for more than a week is expected to continue through the weekend, and the Ministry of Home Affairs reported that 61 more people had died across the country. The bulk of the deaths and damage this week have occurred in Uttar Pradesh state, which local news networks say is experiencing its worst rains in about a decade. Eleven districts are flooded in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh, which so far has seen 46 percent more rain than usual by this point in the monsoon season, the Times of India reported. Rainfall in Lucknow, the state capital, is 94 percent above normal so far this year, and the city of Varanasi has recorded rains 105 percent above normal, according to the Times of India. The Ministry of Home Affairs said 46 new deaths were reported in Uttar Pradesh on Friday, with 3,011 villages now affected, 650 of them stranded by floods. Nearly 5,000 people have been evacuated from their homes, the Ministry reported. Indian medical teams have been deployed to flood-affected areas and the government is using boats for rescue operations. On Friday the Indian Meteorological Department said northwestern states will likely see widespread rainfall over the next three days. The department also warned that a new low-pressure area is expected to form over the west-central Bay of Bengal by Sunday (August 3), likely bringing heavy rains to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra states early next week, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

<http://www.ndmindia.nic.in/>
http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Cities/It_didnt_rain_like_this_in_ten_years/articleshow/3312227.cms
http://www.khaleejtimes.com/darticlen.asp?xfile=data/subcontinent/2008/August/subcontinent_August30.xml&ion=subcontinent&col=

China, 31 July: Landslide leaves five dead in southwestern Sichuan province

A mud-rock flow has left at least five people dead in Ya'an City in China's southwestern province of Sichuan. According to the official Xinhua news agency, the city government said that the victims were killed after their car was buried by the mud-rock flow, which was triggered by heavy rains. Rains, flooding and rain-related disasters left at least 252 dead across China in June. Flooding and other rain-related disasters are an annual problem in the country during the summer's rainy season, with millions of people living on reclaimed farmland in the floodplains of rivers. In other news in Sichuan province Friday, two strong aftershocks shook the region where almost 70,000 people were killed, some 18,000 were left missing and 5 million were made homeless by a 7.9-magnitude earthquake which hit the region on May 12, the deadliest quake to hit China in over 30 years.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/KHII-7H48VU?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=chn>
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VDUX-7H4MEX?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=chn>

Nepal, 31 July: At least 10 dead from mudslide

At least 10 people, including six in one family, have been reported killed by a mudslide in far western Jajarkot district in Nepal. The landslide hit remote Mulpani in Jajarkot district headquarters, Khalanga. Meanwhile, heavy flooding is affecting hundreds of families in eastern Nepal. IRIN reported local NGOs as saying, "We haven't experienced such heavy rainfall for 20 years,". Saptari is one of the most flood-prone districts in the southeastern Terai region where heavy rains in 2007 affected over 50,000 houses, displaced nearly 8,300 and destroyed over 3,500 houses. According to IRIN, local NGOs said about 45 people died due to

disease because of the flooding. Local residents have warned that the situation this year could be worse as the embankments of more than 10 rivers have collapsed, flooding nearby areas.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/LRON-7H3GAX?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=np1>

Romania, 29 July: 13,000 people evacuated after flooding

Some 13,000 people have been evacuated from their homes after 180 communities in eight counties were flooded following heavy rains that fell over north and northeast Romania in the last eight days. Four people have died and two are still missing. Hundreds of kilometres of county roads and nine national roads have been closed across Maramures, Salaj, Satu Mare, Bistrita-Nasaud, Suceava, Neamt, Botosani, Iasi and Bacau. Siret and Prut rivers reached their highest levels in 200 years and still pose a significant threat in the four counties of Iasi, Bacau, Botosani, and Neamt.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/fromthefield/wvmeero/a3e5a1ea28329169332094bbe0eb457a.htm>

China, 28 July: Over 600,000 evacuated as Tropical Storm Fung-Wong hits More than 600,000 people were evacuated as Tropical Storm Fung-Wong made landfall on China's southeastern coast. Fung-Wong was downgraded from a typhoon as it hit Fujian province Monday, bringing heavy rains. So far state media has not reported any deaths or injuries from Fung-Wong, but the civil affairs ministry ordered officials in eight provinces to launch disaster relief work and to prepare emergency shelters and supplies, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Officials in Fujian had ordered the evacuation of 274,300 people and told 52,300 fishing boats to return to port. In neighboring Zhejiang province, more than 338,000 people were evacuated and more than 27,600 fishing boats were ordered back to land. The storm also destroyed at least 110 houses and 41,610 acres (16,840 hectares) of farmland, according to preliminary estimates, Xinhua reported. The storm also led to the cancellation of dozens of international flights and caused economic damages of some US\$74 million (503 million yuan), according to Xinhua.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VDUX-7GZMWG?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=chn>

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5jR0vpcDuTULFYp5KBcoQmfaodMvQ>

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/KLMT-7GZ2T2?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=phl>

News:

North Korea: UN says hunger worst since 1990s The UN's food agency on Wednesday (July 30) said that hunger in North Korea is at its worst since the 1990s. Floods last year have forced millions to resort to eating grasses and roots to survive, reported the World Food Program (WFP) as saying. "I won't say that we are seeing an impending famine (but) hunger levels are at their worst since the late 1990s... Between 5 and 6 million Koreans are in need of food assistance right now," AFP quoted WFP country director for North Korea Jean-Pierre de Margerie as saying. He said that the worst flooding on record last summer in North Korea destroyed much of the country's crop and forced the government to ask for the resumption of WFP food deliveries that were halted at Pyongyang's request in 2006. The WFP resumed shipping food aid in June and will make an international appeal in August for up to US\$500 million to begin flowing in to the country in September, AFP reported de Margerie as saying. Much of the aid will reportedly be provided by the US, but other countries such as South Korea, Russia, Italy, Canada and Switzerland have also offered support for the appeal. North Korea has been relying on international food aid to feed its people for years and experts say the famine in the late 1990s was caused by a combination of natural disasters, including flooding and drought, and mismanagement.

<http://asia.news.yahoo.com/080730/afp/080730141322asiapacificnews.html>

Hurricane preparedness survey reveals public health worries

As Texas cleans up after last week's Hurricane Dolly, what are residents in coastal areas most worried about when it comes to hurricanes? New survey says most of them are probably concerned there may not be enough fresh water or medical care. According to an article on the *Infection Control Today* magazine website, the survey by the Harvard School of Public Health Project on the Public and Biological Security shows that one-third (34 percent) of those people in hurricane-prone areas say they are very prepared if a major hurricane were to strike their communities in the next six months. The survey asked respondents who were either threatened or hit by Hurricane Katrina what were their biggest worries in the aftermath of a hurricane. Forty-two percent were very worried there would not be fresh water to drink, while 41 percent were very worried they would not be able to get needed medical care.

<http://www.infectioncontrolday.com/hotnews/hurricane-preparedness-public-health.html>

Disasters haven't abated but cash has, Groups say

A non-profit group known as the Disaster Preparedness and Response Program of the Human Services Council of New York City has helped coordinate nonprofit organizations, ensuring the groups didn't duplicate services. But earlier this month, the group – like many others recently – closed its doors. Are budget cuts to blame? In an article in the *New York Times*, April Dembosky says the closure of the 9/11 United Services Group came after the state declined to renew its financing. It was one of several disaster programs affected by budget cuts this year. The council's disaster response program was first financed by the State Office of Homeland Security, then by the State Department of Health. In a contract ending in 2007, the Health Department granted the council \$380,000 for the disaster response program.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/26/nyregion/26disaster.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Parents of China quake victims can have 2nd child

BEIJING, July 26 (Reuters) - Couples whose only child was killed or seriously injured in the May 12 Sichuan province earthquake may have another, winning an exemption from China's strict family planning rules, the China Daily said. The standing committee of the provincial People's Congress passed rules setting out which couples would be allowed to have more children, the paper reported. <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK8409.htm>

UN admits 'significant' Myanmar exchange rate loss

The top U.N. humanitarian affairs official said on Monday the world body had suffered "significant" losses while delivering cyclone aid to Myanmar due to a distorted official exchange rate. Earlier this month, the United Nations issued an appeal for more than \$300 million in extra aid to cope with the effects of Cyclone Nargis that struck the Irrawaddy Delta region on May 2-3, leaving around 140,000 people dead or missing. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes told reporters the United Nations has lost about \$10 million in currency exchanges so far as it pays for a variety of goods and services in Myanmar. <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N28511114.htm>

Proposal for new US\$10 billion disaster fund wins plaudits, criticism: A proposal in a recent UN report for a unified global mechanism for disaster relief and risk mitigation, with a US\$10 billion budget, is receiving a mixed welcome, with praise for increased spending and prevention efforts, but concern over the idea of a one-stop shop. The umbrella facility would absorb what the proposal calls the fragmented existing bodies that fail to pass the "acid test" of providing sufficient financing quickly and automatically to countries hit by disaster, and would ultimately assume a much larger role in investments in disaster planning and preparedness. "Creating a global disaster mechanism, possibly under the auspices of the UN, could bring together and scale up in a more holistic manner the existing fragmented

resources," says the proposal in the World Economic and Social Survey 2008, published on 1 July by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=79174>

Females Hit Worst by Cyclone Nargis: Nearly three months after the powerful Cyclone Nargis tore through Burma's Irrawaddy Delta, it has emerged that the majority of those who died in the devastated area were women. Sixty one percent of those who died were female, reveals the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA), a report released by the tripartite group set up to respond to the humanitarian crisis in military-ruled Burma, or Myanmar. "In some severely affected villages, twice as many women aged 18-60 died as men," the report said. The same pattern was also evident in the deaths of children in the 5-12 age group and the among the children below five years, where there was a noticeably higher number of young girls who died when Nargis struck than young boys, adds the 187-page report, released last week. http://www.irrawaddy.org/article1.php?art_id=13583&page=1

Sounds of Music: The Laya project, a tribute to the victims and survivors of the 2004 Tsunami, is 68 minutes of a tasteful fusion of audio clips and music. It is an effort to string together the coastal regions of India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Thailand, Myanmar and Indonesia, the six countries that were wrecked by the Tsunami, through the regional folk music from the countries. "The musicians in this project are the people of coastal and surrounding communities of the countries affected by the Tsunami, where music is a part of the lifestyle. The project has given communities a platform for their music and their talents," says Sonia Mazumdar, director, Laya Project. EarthSync, a Chennai-based record label company and producers of visual content, are the core team behind the project. They traveled through the communities with an international team, capturing images and scenes and recording the music of the various folk artists. "The filming and recording on-location took over two years. The music is representational of music forms of these regions combined with some musical explorations," reveals Sonia. The folk music has been fused with contemporary beats.

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IEN20080730172402&Page=N&Title=Music&Topic=0>

Events:

- 8 and 9 October, Pakistan
Exhibition to commemorate the **National Disaster Awareness Day**
More details can be accessed at: <http://www.dmec.pk>, <http://www.ndma.gov.pk>
- 6-8 November 2008, Laramie, Wyoming
7th Rocky Mountain Region Disaster Mental Health Conference
Online Brochure: <http://www.rmrinstitute.org/Laramie-Conference-2008-brochure.doc>
- 26-29 November 2008, New Delhi, India
2nd World Aqua Congress-Global Climate Change and Water Resources

Information Resources:

Newsletters:

- Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) CRUNCH newsletter: the issue presents the new disaster classification adopted for the EM-DAT database. Please find the **CRED CRUNCH** at this link:
<http://www.emdat.be/Documents/CredCrunch/Cred%20Crunch%2013.pdf>

- **TRINet** August 08 Newsletter: The newsletter contains an update on the ongoing sea safety project in Tamil Nadu, India as well as snippets of news from coastal areas and related to tsunami rehabilitation. The issue can be downloaded from <http://www.trinet.in/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?cid=35&lid=496>
- **ProVention News** covering Community Disaster Resilience Fund and Urban risk activities: www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/ProVention_News/ProVentionNews_Jul08.pdf

Reports:

- **Report: Assess human costs of climate change:** Climate change policies must take note of their impact on human rights, says a latest report. Released by the International Council on Human Rights Policy, the report stresses the need to collect local level data so that the adaptation and mitigation strategies do not harm the well-being of certain communities. <http://southasia.oneworld.net/todaysh headlines/assess-human-costs-of-climate-change-says-report>

- **Managing Asian Cities**, Asian Development Bank (ADB), 2008: **Compensating for climate change- principles and lessons for equitable adaptation funding:**

The challenge of urbanization in Asia is unprecedented- some 1.1 billion people will move to cities in the next 20 years. *Managing Asian Cities* aims to provide a useful management resource, canvassing key issues and pointing managers to appropriate responses to problems; and, provide the initial step in a new phase of ADB's continuing support to Asian cities under its Strategy 2020. The study is organized in two parts. The first reviews the existing situation. The second presents options for improved urban management practice.

The report provides options for solving problems. Differentiating between cities in terms of wealth, size, and capacity it also focuses on a city's self-reliance, suggesting ways in which different types of cities can take on more responsibility for their own development, especially in terms of creating enabling frameworks for urban development. Government is seen as more of a facilitator for the community and private sector than as an implementer.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Studies/Managing-Asian-Cities/default.asp>

Discussion paper: Funding mechanisms for climate change adaptation published by ActionAid International, 2007

There are significant gaps between funds pledged and the needs of developing countries struggling to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Additionally, there has been insufficient attention to the question of which funding mechanisms are most appropriate for serving communities affected by climate change. This paper discusses the current funding gaps and presents a core set of principles by which any adaptation funding mechanism should be assessed. It reviews the existing funding mechanisms and evaluates these based on the core principles highlighted. Finally alternative models for adaptation finance are examined based on two existing precedents - the GlobalFund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

Full text of document:

http://www.actionaidusa.org/assets/pdfs/climate_change/compensating_for_climate_change.pdf

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/environment/climate-change&id=37134&type=Document>

Briefing paper: Flood disasters: Learning from previous relief and recovery operations published by ALNAP and the ProVention Consortium: This briefing paper synthesizes key lessons from evaluations of relief and recovery/humanitarian response to flooding in the last 20 years from Africa, Asia and the Americas. The paper is intended for people working in relief and recovery operations for floods – those who have to decide if, when and how to intervene. The paper covers lessons for key topics which may be relevant in various ways and at different times for flood preparedness, relief and recovery.
http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/ALNAP-ProVention_flood_lessons.pdf

Publication: Responding to earthquakes 2008 - Learning from earthquake relief and recovery operations, published by ALNAP and the ProVention Consortium in English and Chinese: This briefing paper provides a distillation of learning from thirty years of response to earthquakes, looking at preparedness, relief and recovery. The paper is intended for operational decision-makers and program managers working relief and recovery efforts after earthquakes.
http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/ALNAP-ProVention_earthquake08.pdf

Forum outcomes: ProVention Forum 2008 - From Grassroots to Global: People Centered Disaster Risk Reduction
http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/Forum_2008_report.pdf

Forum outcomes: Oslo Policy Forum on changing the way we develop: Dealing with Disasters and Climate Change published by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNDP and the ProVention Consortium: This report summarizes the discussions and conclusions of the Oslo Policy Forum held February 27-29, 2008 in Oslo.
http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/Oslo_policy_forum_report.pdf
Additional information on the Forum, including the full agenda, list of participants and background documents can be found at: www.oslopolicyforum.no.

Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation, Development and Disaster Risk Reduction – Strengthening Community Resilience in the Caribbean Region published by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies / the ProVention Consortium: In February 2008, the ProVention Consortium and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Regional Caribbean Office hosted a workshop on Climate Change Adaptation, Development and Disaster Risk Reduction in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The workshop brought together 50 participants from civil society, national and local governments, academia, regional inter-governmental bodies, media and the private sector in order to work towards the development of a Program of Action for strengthening community resilience and local adaptive capacity in a changing Caribbean climate. Download document at
http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/Forum08/Trinidad_forum08.pdf

Video: The human face of climate change (Global Humanitarian Forum)
This video, produced by the Red Cross, the Global Humanitarian Forum and dev.tv, gives a direct insight into the impact of climate change and extreme weather events on people's lives around the world. There are interviews with farmers, disaster survivors, aid volunteers, officials and children from Bangladesh, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Britain, Malawi and the Maldives. <http://www.alertnet.org/thefacts/reliefresources/121724475680.htm>
