Rasuwa Glacial Flood

Situation Report #1
(as of 10 July 2025)

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Home Affairs
National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu

This report is produced by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority(NDRRMA) in collaboration with sectoral ministries, departments, provincial and local government. It covers the situation of massive flashflood in Rasuwa and neighboring districts in 08 July 2025.

Situation Overview

On 08 July 2025, a sudden flash flood triggered by the rapid discharge of a supraglacial lake on the Purepu Glacier in Tibet, China approximately 35 kilometers upstream from the Nepal - China border caused widespread devastation along the Lende River (known locally as the Bhotekoshi River in Nepal).

The disaster has claimed the lives of at least nine people, whose bodies were recovered from various locations across the Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, and Chitwan districts along the Trishuli River corridor. Nineteen individuals remain missing, and search and rescue operations involving multiple security agencies are ongoing.

The flood, fueled by rising temperatures and the accelerating expansion of glacial lakes, severely damaged critical infrastructure. Notable losses include the Nepal - China Friendship Bridge at Rasuwagadhi, large sections of the Rasuwagadhi dry port, and three hydropower plants on the catchment area. Several trucks, containers, and electric vehicles awaiting customs clearance at the dry port were submerged or swept away.

In addition, approximately 16 kilometers of roadway between Syafrubesi and Rasuwagadhi have been rendered impassable. The disruption of the vital Rasuwagadhi–Kerung trade route has sparked serious concerns over economic losses, which are estimated to reach into the billions of rupees. Local governments and relevant ministries are currently conducting comprehensive damage assessments.

Summary of Damage and Loss

Human Casualties

- 10 Dead body Recovered
- 19 Missing
- 1 Injured

Emergency Rescue

- 1873 Security Forces Deployed
- 57 Rescued
- 31 Heli Rescue

Vehicles

- 24 Container Truck
- 35 Electric Vehicle
- 6 Sino Truck

Infrastructure

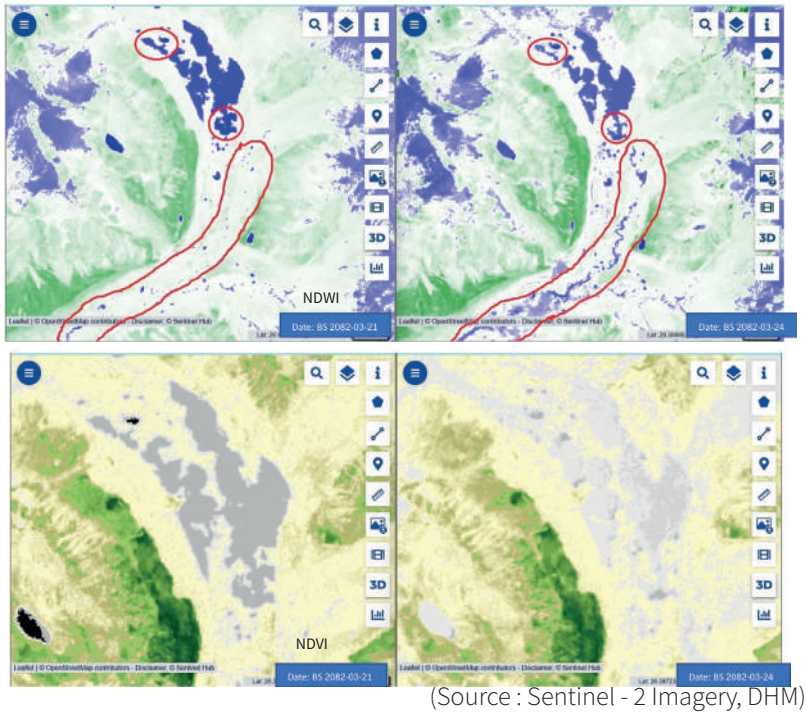
- 2 Bridge (1 -Collapsed, 1- Partial)
- 16 km Road
- 3 Hydro Power
- 1 Dry Port

Remote Sensing Analysis of Flood Causation

Sentinel-2 imagery reveals the rapid development and subsequent discharge of a supraglacial lake on the Purepu Glacier, located approximately 35 km upstream from the Nepal–China border post.

Beginning in March 2025, supraglacial ponds started to form and gradually expanded through mid-May. From that point onward, a sharp increase in surface water was observed, culminating in a lake area of approximately **0.525 km²** by 28 June(*source:ICIMOD*). Continued coalescence and expansion led to the formation of supraglacial lake measuring around **0.75 km²** by 07 July *(source :DHM)*.

On 08 July, the lake had undergone a rapid decline in area, shrinking to approximately **0.6 km²***(source :DHM)*. Drainage features visible on the glacier surface that day indicate that at least part of the outburst occurred supraglacially, suggesting a complex drainage pathway contributing to the downstream flash flood.



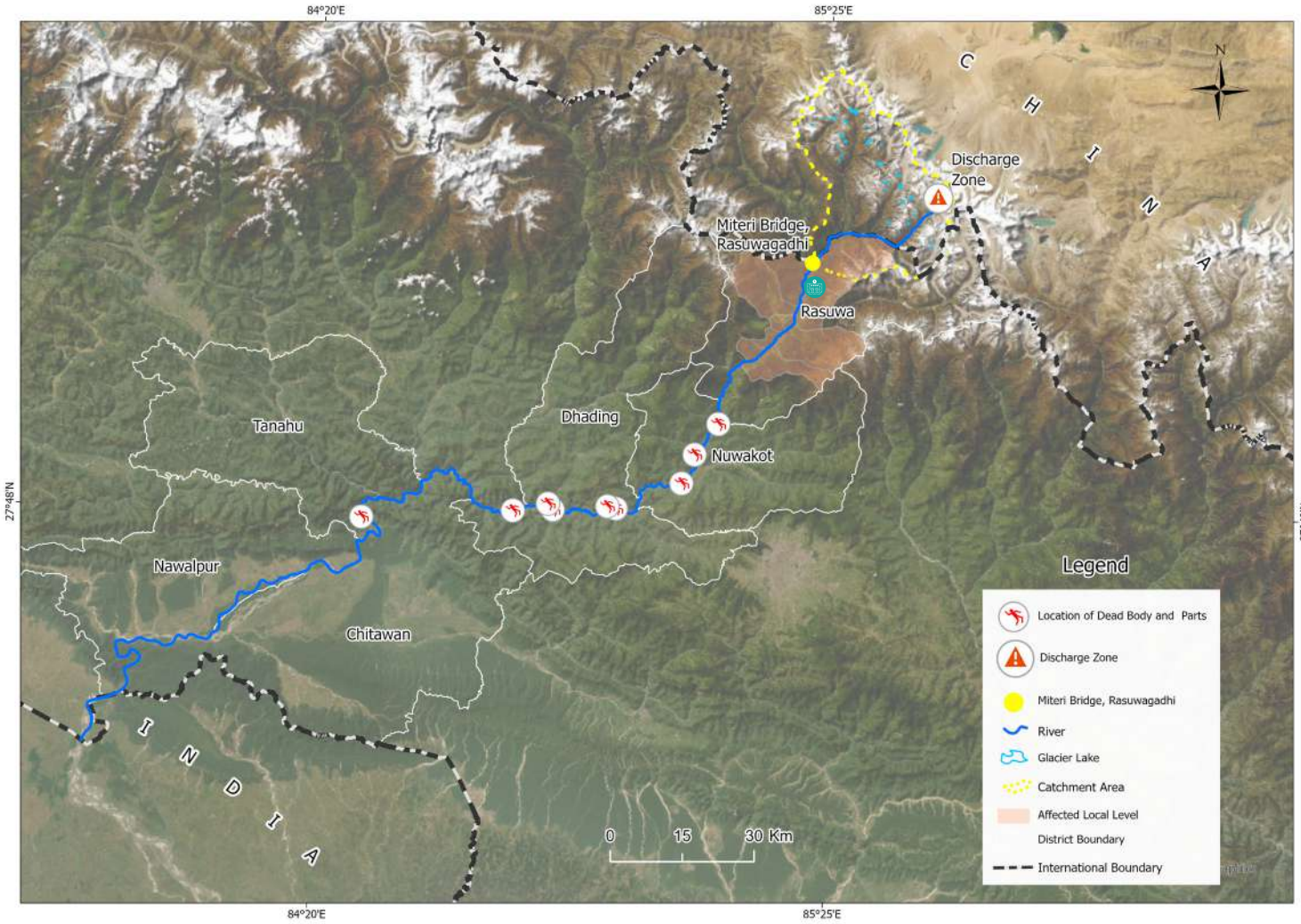
(Source : Sentinel - 2 Imagery, DHM)

Key Action Taken

1. 1873 Nepal Police and Armed Police Force Nepal personnel were deployed for the search and rescue operations. Nepal Army has used helicopter to rescue the 2 people at Nuwakot and 25 people at Rasuwa District .
2. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister cum Minister for Finance, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Chief Secretary, Security Chief of all three security agencies, Chief Executive of NDRRMA and other dignitaries visited the affected area on 08 July 2025.
3. DRRM National Council Meeting was held on 08 July at the Office of the Prime Minister regarding Rasuwa Flood.

On-site high-level delegation visit of Rasuwa Glacial Floods affected areas

Map - Flood Affected Area



DRRM Council Meeting Decisions

Tuesday, 24 Ashadh 2082 (08 July 2025)

1. Express gratitude to security personnel and local residents involved in rescue efforts under high-risk conditions and continue and further strengthen the search and rescue operations for the missing individuals.
2. Instruct the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport to coordinate with the Government of China through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the reconstruction of the friendship bridge and Rasuwagadhi–Syabrubesi road section to resume border operations. and make necessary arrangements for the smooth operation of alternative border crossings with China.
3. Instruct the concerned ministries to promptly repair and resume services at damaged customs, immigration, and hydro power infrastructure, and facilitate processes such as insurance and other measures for losses incurred by businesses, including containers, vehicles, and other goods.
4. Expressing deep sorrow over the human and physical losses caused by the incident, the meeting extended heartfelt condolences to the deceased and sympathies to their families and instructed concerned agencies to ensure immediate relief to the families of the deceased and missing as per existing laws, and arrange free treatment for the injured.
5. Instruct all concerned agencies of Nepal to coordinate with the Government of China to identify the causes of the flood, conduct a detailed study.
6. Instruct all concerned agencies to conduct a detailed damage assessment of the structures and other infrastructures affected by the sudden flood in the Bhotekoshi River and present the findings in the next meeting of the Council.

Ongoing Efforts

- Search operations to locate the 19 missing individuals are ongoing, led by all three security agencies in coordination with local authorities, spanning from the incident site to Chitwan district.
- Continuous efforts are underway to restore telecommunication and electricity services in the affected wards of Gosainkunda Rural Municipality.
- The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, in collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), is closely monitoring the post- flood situation and conducting a detailed investigation into the cause of the Rasuwa floods.
- NDRRMA is actively coordinating with relevant line ministries to carry out Detailed Damage Assessments (DDA) in the flood-affected areas.