

Status of children after the Bhote Koshi flood

Key findings and recommendations from the government's 6 September assessment

In short

-  **1,341 dead and 4,996 missing.** More than 22,100 children affected
-  **1,233 children in 30 holding centres,** including 102 who lost both parents
-  **Most are in two places:** Uttargaya in Rasuwa and Bidur in Nuwakot
-  **No reliable list of who the children are.** Records are patchy and birth certificates were lost with the houses
-  **No abuse confirmed, but the risk is high.** Children don't know where to report harm
-  **The ask: protect by need, not equal relief for all,** with institutional care as the last resort

The scale of the disaster

On 26 August 2026, a glacier collapse above the Lhende Khola sent a flash flood down the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli rivers. **15 local areas across six districts** were declared disaster-affected.



1,341

dead, 6,075 injured and 4,996 missing



22,100+

children affected, 2,600 of them under five



3,930

people in 30 shelters in Nuwakot and Rasuwa



13,104

people rescued by 21,465+ security personnel



Homes

1,267 destroyed, 1,253 damaged



Schools

19 destroyed, 6,901 students out of class



Bridges

41 swept away, 4 damaged



Health

4 facilities destroyed, 2 hospitals cut off



Water

Supply cut to about 4,465 households



Farming

2,035 livestock and 16,500 poultry lost

Where the children are

1,233 children in 30 holding centres on 4 September — 632 girls and 601 boys.

Children in holding centres	Total	Lost both parents	Separated from parents	Living with a parent	With disabilities
Bidur, Nuwakot	614	27	206	381	5
Uttargaya, Rasuwa	266	57	0	209	3
Belkotgadhi, Nuwakot	152	0	52	100	0
Gosaikunda, Rasuwa	112	0	0	2	12
Galchhi and Gajuri, Dhading	62	0	8	0	0
Kispang, Nuwakot	27	18	9	0	1
All centres	1,233	102	439	692	21

Local figures don't always add up to the totals, because centres record children differently.

Children outside the count

- **Moved to Kathmandu monasteries:** whole villages from Amachhodingmo and Gosaikunda, with no count of children who lost parents
- **About 200 missing** from Uttargaya, and 24 from Kispang
- **80 children in Tarakeshwar can't reach school** since the bridge was washed away
- **Bidur has barred moving children outside the municipality**, so they are staying close to home

The main risks to children

Records and separation

- **No record of who a child came with** or who cares for them now at many shelters
- **Birth certificates and school records lost** in most destroyed homes
- **Communication cut**, so families can't reach relatives

Safety in shelters

- **120+ people sleeping in one shelter** with no registration, including strangers
- **No privacy for women and girls** to bathe, change or breastfeed
- **Trafficking and child marriage risk** in areas already prone to both

Health and daily life

- **Shortages of water, soap, pads and clothes** at many shelters
- **Days of instant noodles only** for children at one Dhading shelter
- **About 4,430 pregnant women**, with 74 likely to need emergency birth care

Learning and wellbeing

- **No play, learning or counselling** at any shelter visited
- **Signs of fear, stress and withdrawal**; most children couldn't speak freely
- **No wheelchairs or accessible toilets** for children with disabilities

Schools

-  **12 schools fully destroyed** on the visits alone, 8 in Nuwakot and 4 in Rasuwa
-  **Teachers and students still missing:** 200+ students at one Uttargaya school, 100+ at another in Nuwakot, and a Bidur school bus with 100+ students
-  **Standing schools filled with mud**, more than three feet deep at one Dhading school of 415 students
-  **900 students saved** by a Nuwakot head teacher who moved them ten minutes before the flood hit
-  **Free schooling through Grade 12**, with accommodation, promised by Bagmati Province for children who lost guardians

What the assessment recommends

Eight priorities, in order

1

Protect the most vulnerable

Find children who lost parents, reunite families, safe shelter

2

Water, food and health

Especially for infants and young children

3

Keep children learning

Temporary classrooms and school supplies

4

Mental health

Psychological first aid and referral

5

Protection from harm

Abuse, exploitation, child marriage, trafficking

6

Inclusion

Relief that reaches girls and children with disabilities

7

Family income

Cash support and rebuilding livelihoods

8

Safer rebuilding

Child-friendly, disaster-resilient schools and clinics

When

First 30 days

Find at-risk children, trace families, register everyone, safe water and food, a child protection desk at every centre

1 to 6 months

Reopen schools and clinics, support family income, strengthen child protection

6 months onward

Safe rebuilding, child-friendly disaster planning, children's voices in decisions

Who should do what

- **Federal government:** one plan across ministries, one verified list of affected children, and raising climate justice for children internationally
- **Province:** a budget for children in disasters, counsellors for every local area, and stronger 1098 and 104 child helplines
- **Local government:** a named child protection contact at every shelter, and free reissue of birth certificates and school records
- **Charities:** family tracing, safe spaces for children, and consent before using any child's photo or story
- **Aid agencies:** cash support for high-risk families, and schools rebuilt safer than before
- **Private donors:** school bags, books and learning materials, given through local government so no family is missed

The conclusion

-  **A long-term crisis for children**, not only a relief emergency
-  **Indigenous and marginalised communities hit hardest**, as in past disasters
-  **Floods like this are becoming more likely** as the climate warms
-  **Protect by need, not equal relief for all**, with child protection first

About the assessment

- **Led by** the National Child Rights Council, with Save the Children, UNICEF, Civin Nepal, Consortium Nepal and Youth Alliance for Environment
- **Fieldwork** 31 August to 4 September 2026, in Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Tanahun and Chitwan
- **Method:** 27 interviews, 15 group discussions with families and children, and visits to 15 sites
- **Limits:** many figures are first counts that change daily as families move and reunite



Find the full report (in Nepali) [here](#)

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