NESRA Flood Situation Brief #02

Rasuwa / Bhotekoshi-Trishuli Flood - 27 August 2026

Version 2.0 | Data cutoff: 27 Aug 2026, 14:38 NPT | Publication: 27 Aug 2026, 14:42 NPT

CURRENT OFFICIAL RISK STATUS

The DHM River Watch display reviewed at 14:38 NPT listed Trishuli at Furke as below warning level and steady. This is a station-specific reading, not an all-clear for damaged or unmonitored upstream reaches. Follow DHM, NDRRMA and local authorities for current instructions.

1. Situation Overview

A major flash-flood and debris-flow event entered Nepal through the Lhende-Bhotekoshi corridor on 26 August and propagated through the Trishuli-Narayani system. USGS analysis indicates the recorded seismic signal was produced by glacial collapse and debris flow rather than an earthquake. ICIMOD and Nepal disaster-management reporting point to an ice-rock avalanche; temporary damming and release remain under assessment.

2. Current Official Risk Status

DHM's current station display is visually dominant over earlier historical warnings. Earlier reports documented damaged gauges and an upstream blockage that was not fully resolved at publication time; present conditions must therefore be checked directly with DHM and NDRRMA. DHM flood information: 1155, option 2.

3. Geographic Impact

Upper corridor	Rasuwagadhi, Timure and Syabrubesi severely affected; individual-structure totals remain incomplete.	Reported by authorities and media
Middle corridor	Betrawati, Trishuli and nearby settlements affected as the debris-rich flood moved downstream.	Probable
Downstream	Flood wave traced through Muglin and Devghat. DHM recorded a Devghat peak of 6.57 m at 16:00 NPT on 26 Aug.	DHM technical report

4. Access and Connectivity

The approximately 42 km Betrawati-Rasuwagadhi road has severe physical damage and reported bridge losses. Safe end-to-end passability has not been authoritatively confirmed. Physical damage must not be interpreted as an official open/closed determination.

5. Critical Infrastructure

Roads, bridges, telecommunications, hydropower facilities and river-monitoring infrastructure were affected. Syabrubesi and Betrawati gauges stopped transmitting; the Furke/Malekhu station and bridge were reported washed away. Project-level damage remains subject to authoritative engineering assessment.

6. Response Activity

More than 5,000 army and police personnel joined the response. The Nepali Army reported 125 people retrieved on Thursday, including 20 foreign nationals, while helicopters delivered tents, food and emergency supplies. NDRRMA reported 165 bodies recovered and 823 people out of contact in its latest reviewed update. These figures are provisional and may change as lists are reconciled.

OFFICIAL IMPACT FIGURES

Nepal scope only. Originating authorities: NDRRMA, Nepal Police and Nepal Tourism Board. Latest reviewed report: 27 Aug 2026. Status: PROVISIONAL. Cross-border totals and figures using different geographic scopes must not be added directly.

7. Earth Observation Status

Copernicus EMSR927	Rapid Mapping ongoing; 2 AOIs; 0 products displayed at review time.	External products pending
PlanetScope	9 post-event scenes at about 3.8 m; 62-93% cloud and 2-14% clear area.	Available, cloud-limited
SkySat	2 post-event collects from 27 Aug at about 0.8 m over Rasuwagadhi and Syabrubesi; about 50% cloud and 8% clear.	New focal imagery; review required
Sentinel-1	Pre-event baseline from 24 Aug. Suitable post-event assessment not published by NESRA.	Monitoring / pending
NESRA EO output	No NESRA satellite-derived flood extent published.	Publication control remains closed

Method note: pre-event PlanetScope analytical data are surface reflectance, while post-event PlanetScope analytical data are top-of-atmosphere radiance. Direct analytical band differencing is unsafe without atmospheric correction. SkySat covers two focal areas, not the full corridor.

8. Key Information Gaps

- Authoritative current passability for each damaged road segment and bridge.
- Condition of upstream blockage or impoundment areas and residual secondary-hazard risk.
- Reconciled Nepal-specific casualty, missing-person and rescue totals.
- Engineering assessments for hydropower, telecommunications and public infrastructure.
- A suitable validated post-event radar assessment and any approved NESRA EO product.

9. Sources

- DHM River Watch and Flood Forecasting Division technical situation report, reviewed 27 Aug 2026.
- NDRRMA, Nepal Police and Nepal Tourism Board operational statements reported by Reuters, Guardian and OnlineKhabar.
- Planet Crisis Response STAC catalog on Source Cooperative, including 27 Aug SkySat additions; CC BY-NC 4.0.
- Copernicus Emergency Management Service activation EMSR927.
- ICIMOD scientific advisory and Reuters reporting of USGS analysis.
- Department of Roads reporting via The Kathmandu Post; Rasuwa bulletin by Niraj Bhusal used only as an independent source index.

USE AND LIMITATIONS

NESRA FloodWatch provides source-tracked Earth Observation and geospatial situation intelligence. It does not replace official warnings, route-clearance decisions, field verification or government emergency instructions. No personal missing-person records or sensitive responder information are included.

Live incident page: https://nesraspace.org/floodwatch/rasuwa-2026/