

NESRA FloodWatch Situation Brief 08

Rasuwa Bhotekoshi Trishuli Flood 2026

Final scheduled monitoring cutoff: 12 September 2026, 14:50 NPT | Status: Operational monitoring paused - standby

This is NESRA's final scheduled situation brief for this activation before standby. It records the latest reconciled operational position available at the cutoff, preserves the existing Earth Observation assessment, and explains the event-driven conditions for reactivation.

Standby is an institutional monitoring decision. It does not declare that the disaster, Government search and rescue, missing-person work, recovery, relief or infrastructure restoration has ended.

1 Executive operational summary

At the cutoff, the Government of Nepal's latest consolidated briefing continued to describe active search, rescue and relief operations. It reported 1,385 recovered bodies, approximately 5,130 people missing and 13,676 people rescued. The figures remain provisional and subject to continuing recovery and verification. International tunnel and SAR teams were still supporting operations, and the Government said additional specialized equipment remained necessary.

A later Government portal update reported that a 1,050 metre access track had reached the Chilime hydropower tunnel mouth and that heavy equipment had arrived. The update expected tunnel breakthrough on 12 or 13 September, but did not report that breakthrough or search outcomes had occurred. Today's DHM outlook warns of possible heavy rain at one or two locations in Bagmati's hill and mountain areas, with associated flood, debris-flow, landslide and transport risks.

NESRA is therefore pausing routine scheduled monitoring and placing the activation on standby. New monitoring or publication will be event-driven: a material authoritative SAR or tunnel outcome, renewed hazard escalation, significant access change, major new EO finding, or direct partner request.

2 Latest reconciled operational snapshot

Indicator	Value	Authority and time	Interpretation
Recovered bodies	1,385	11 September 2026, 16:00 NPT	Official provisional count; not a final confirmed death toll
Missing	Approximately 5,130	11 September 2026, 16:00 NPT	Continuously updated; includes about 600 foreign nationals
Rescued	13,676	11 September 2026, 16:00 NPT	Cumulative Government total; includes more than 320 foreign nationals
Government SAR posture	Continuing	11 September 2026, 16:00 NPT	Major multi-site search, rescue and relief remained active
Chilime tunnel access	1,050 m track opened	11 September 2026, 23:31 NPT	Heavy equipment reached tunnel mouth; outcome unresolved at cutoff
Weather watch	Heavy-rain potential	12 September 2026, 08:00 NPT	Bagmati hill/mountain areas among areas requiring caution

Metric discipline. Recovered bodies are not the same as a final confirmed death total; missing does not mean confirmed deceased; rescued is not interchangeable with treated, housed or evacuated. The live Government portal also displays operational counters using other scopes. NESRA does not merge those counters into the MOFA inter-agency snapshot without a reconciled definition.

3 Why scheduled monitoring is pausing

FloodWatch has met the immediate public-information purpose of this activation through seven published situation briefs, a source-tracked incident page, a maintained programme landing page, machine-readable data, and NESRA Rapid EO Assessment v1. The decisive constraint is now institutional: continued fixed-cycle monitoring would add limited value relative to the effort required, while official operations and dynamic risk remain outside NESRA's authority and continue through Government systems.

- The pause reduces the risk that an infrequently updated NESRA page is mistaken for a live official warning service.
- The activation record remains public, attributed and versioned so researchers, partners and practitioners can review what was known at each cutoff.
- Standby preserves the ability to resume targeted monitoring when a material trigger occurs, without implying continuous 24 hour coverage.
- NESRA will not publish routine daily updates merely to maintain cadence when no material, validated change has occurred.

4 Current risk and response caveats

Domain	What is known	What remains unresolved
Search and rescue	Government reported active national and international teams on day 17	Timing and outcome of tunnel operations; continuing missing-person reconciliation
Access	Devighat Acrow bridge was reported open; road and site clearance continued	End-to-end passability of affected corridors is not established by one bridge opening
Weather and hazards	DHM's 12 September outlook included heavy-rain potential in Bagmati hill and mountain areas	Local rainfall, river and slope conditions can change quickly
Recovery	RDNA and recovery planning were under way	Needs, losses, restoration and humanitarian support remain ongoing
Public figures	MOFA issued a consolidated provisional snapshot	Different official systems use different scopes and update cycles

NESRA does not issue warnings. Follow DHM, NDRRMA, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal Police, road authorities and relevant provincial, district and local authorities for current decisions.

5 Earth Observation assessment

NESRA Rapid EO Assessment v1 remains unchanged. It is a rapid, cloud-limited Sentinel-2 flood and debris-path exposure assessment based on imagery from 27 August 2026. It is not a damage assessment.

NESRA EO v1 indicator	Value	Required interpretation
Buildings intersecting mapped path	3,216	Exposure intersection - not verified damage
Major road intersecting mapped path	11.5 km	Exposure intersection - not confirmed loss of service
Bridges intersecting mapped path	62	Exposure intersection - not confirmed damage
Solid-cloud limitation	Approximately 4.1 km	Cloud-obscured does not mean unaffected

Earth Observation analysis lead: Michael Hyland, NESRA Earth Observation Lead. Interactive dashboard: <https://npl-flood-dash-356251209726.europe-west1.run.app/>

External emergency mapping remains methodologically separate. At the cutoff, Copernicus EMSR927 was open with six areas of interest and eight records: six finished and two waiting. The newest completed monitoring record used 5 September imagery and was delivered 7 September. International Charter activation 1052 listed 34 products. These inventories do not revise NESRA EO v1.

6 Standby monitoring posture

Trigger	Minimum evidence	Likely NESRA action
Material SAR or tunnel outcome	New authoritative Government statement	Targeted source reconciliation and, if material, incident update
Renewed hazard escalation	DHM, NDRRMA or competent authority warning affecting the incident area	Risk note or reactivation assessment
Significant access change	Competent road or district authority confirms closure, reopening or new disruption	Update access status with effective time
Major new EO finding	Authoritative or reproducible analysis that materially changes the picture	Technical review; do not overwrite NESRA v1 without a new version
Direct partner request	Clearly scoped institutional need and feasible data access	Rapid assessment under agreed terms

Routine cadence has ended. If none of these triggers occurs, NESRA will keep the activation on standby and will not issue additional incident publications.

7 Activation record and credits

Field	Record
Activation start	26 August 2026
Final scheduled monitoring cutoff	12 September 2026, 14:50 NPT
Standby transition	12 September 2026
Situation briefs	01 through 08
Public status	Operational monitoring paused - standby

NESRA owns, operates and publishes FloodWatch and remains its scientific and geospatial lead. FloodWatch Programme Lead: Anamol Mittal, Founder and President, NESRA. NESRA Earth Observation Lead: Michael Hyind. Technology and Innovation Partner: Infinity Innovation Center, programme-wide. Drone Field Assessment Contributor: Youth Innovation Lab, Rasuwa 2026, where supported by the published record.

This brief and the incident archive support situational awareness. They do not replace official warnings, emergency instructions, missing-person registries, field verification or Government damage assessment.

8 Sources

1. Government of Nepal, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Regular press briefing, 11 September 2026. <https://www.mofa.gov.np/content/1884/the-ministry-s-regular-press-briefing--11-september/>
2. Government of Nepal response portal. Chilime tunnel access-track update, 11 September 2026. <https://rescue.opmcm.gov.np/government-efforts/6aa43f90a2d61442af2b7906>
3. Nepal Meteorological Department. Three-day weather bulletin issued 12 September 2026 at 08:00. <https://dhm.gov.np/mfd/#/weather/three-days-bulletin/1551>
4. Copernicus Emergency Management Service. EMSR927 public activation API, checked 12 September 2026. <https://rapidmapping.emergency.copernicus.eu/backend/dashboard-api/public-activations/?code=EMSR927>
5. International Charter Space and Major Disasters. Activation 1052, checked 12 September 2026. <https://disasterscharter.org/activations/flood-in-nepal-activation-1052->
6. NESRA FloodWatch. Rasuwa 2026 incident record and Rapid EO Assessment v1. <https://nesraspace.org/floodwatch/rasuwa-2026/>