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For Human Rights and Social Justice

Diarrhea Outbreak: Chronology

(Updated on November 7)

INSEC record shows the death toll of diarrhea is **464 in 18 districts of Mid and Far Western Region from April 30 to September 18**. The district of Jajarkot, where the disease spread at first, is one of the remotest parts of the country and areas where the diarrhea outbreak occurred is quite remote and least developed of districts. The disease spread from Jajarkot to neighboring districts of Mid and Far Western Region turning it into an epidemic. The reluctance of the medical personnel to serve in remote districts, along with persisting problem of illiteracy, malnutrition, poor maintenance of water resources, food shortage compounded by long dry spell added to exacerbation of the situation. Nepal government claimed that as the problem is now abating and health posts are being merged.

Date	Details	Source
November 6	<p>Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) and Consumer's Rights Protection Forum (CRPF) have raised concern over the report made public by the government on quality of food distributed in the mid and far west areas affected by the diarrhea outbreak. Saying that the committee formed to probe quality of food adopted wrong measures, the rights bodies questioned fairness of the report at a press meet in Kathmandu on November 6.</p> <p>INSEC Chairperson Subodh Raj Pyakurel said that the government probed into the matter after World Food Programme (WFP) corrected its mistake. He claimed that the food distributed by WFP since mid April to mid July this year was inedible. "The government has challenged its own food quality testing laboratory by conducting food test at a laboratory in Britain," Pyakurel said, adding that the</p>	<p>http://www.inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&id=5821&lang=en</p>



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	<p>panel ignored the request of CRPF to include INSEC and its representatives in the committee. He further claimed that the panel forbade publicising the facts by including WFP which distributed the substandard food in the committee. "The government formed panel has not conducted toxicological and doctorial test of the deceased persons which are necessary," he said. Saying that the WFP had disregarded Nepal government, he said that it had not conducted any food quality tests though the Rupandehi district administration had sent letters twice to do so since 2007.</p> <p>He added that the WFP had threatened 3.2 million consumers to stop the food aid programme through press releases. "WFP is a UN body, people's body. There are methods for distribution of food, but people of every country have the right to take action against those who commit mistakes."</p> <p>General Secretary of CRPF Jyoti Baniya said that the food test conducted by Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC) had issued a report that the food distributed by WFP was inedible even for animals and birds. Saying that WFP representative should not be included in the panel, he demanded a high-level judicial probe</p> <p>commission to prove the quality of WFP distributed food.</p>	



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	<p>A press release issued jointly by INSEC and CRPF at the program issued serious concern over the report made public by the government formed panel. The panel headed by Joint-Secretary of Ministry of Local Development Dinesh Thapaliya had stated that the WFP distributed food met quality. "The government panel has not clarified from where it collected samples for quality test and date of distribution of food on which it conducted test. There is question about the independence and impartiality of the investigation process as the WFP, which has been distributing substandard food, and the government, which has the responsibility of monitoring, completed the investigation process to cover their own mistakes. Commissioner of National Human Rights Commission Ram Nagina Singh during a meeting held at NHRC on September 7 made it clear that it is not fair to investigate the mistakes by the parties involved in the incident. We would like to draw the attention that Representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and World Food Program who were also present on the occasion."</p> <p>"As more than 450 died due to diarrhea and food sample test report also proved that substandard food was distributed in the region, we appeal the government to be sensitive about the issue and form an independent committee to investigate the issue and fulfill its basic</p>	



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	<p>responsibility towards its people," the statement said.</p> <p>NHRC representative Sriram Adhikari informed that the NHRC had already recommended the government to probe into the case by forming a high-level committee including health professionals, experts on food quality tests. He said that samples of food distributed by WFP which were collected by NHRC during its fact finding mission were declared unfit for human consumption by DFTQC. He demanded that autopsy of the deceased be conducted to find out the cause of the death. "Whatever may be the cause of the diarrhea outbreak, it has been found that inedible food was found, distributed in the affected areas," a press statement issued by NHRC on October 28 said.</p> <p>INSEC and various organizations have time and again drawn the government's attention to adopt necessary measures to control the diarrhea disease which spread in some districts of Mid and Far Western region. INSEC had demanded quality test of the food distributed by WFP in the affected areas. An investigation report about the death of people due to diarrhea in Mid and Far Western Regions and distribution of food released by NHRC on October 28 had stated that it had been found that inedible food was distributed in affected places, no matter whatsoever the reason of the outbreak of the epidemic was. Likewise, CRPF has also released report that stated food samples</p>	



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	collected from the affected areas were tested unfit for human consumption.	
October 28	<p>National Human Rights Commission has stated that substandard food was distributed in diarrhea-hit districts of Mid and Far Western Regions.</p> <p>A investigation report about the death of people due to diarrhea and cholera in Mid and Far Western Regions and distribution of food released by NHRC, national rights watchdog, on October 28 has stated that it has been found that inedible food was distributed in affected places, no matter whatsoever the reason of the outbreak of the epidemic was. UN WFP has been distributing food in these districts since last 40 years.</p> <p>The report further said that the food samples collected by NHRC in Jajarkot district were found substandard in a test at Food Technology and Quality Control Department. The letter of District Administration Office Rupendehi to the Bhairahawa custom office dated on June 28 to check the quality of imported food also proves that the standard of imported food was not tested before that date. The report also said that Food Technology and Quality Control Office Bhairahawa said that there was 1.6 metric ton substandard food in the district.</p> <p>The national rights watchdog has expressed suspicion that Genetically Modified Food might have been distributed in these areas. The sale of such food was not permitted in Nepal. The Commission quoted a letter sent to the Commission by Office of the Food Technology and Quality Control dated on October 12 that of the 16 samples of food collected by Surkhet based food inspector of Nepal Government four samples were found not in line with the standard set by the Nepal government.</p>	NHRC



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	<p>Stating that four hundred people have died and over 64 thousand people became ill due to diarrhea the commission demanded for forming a judicial commission comprising representatives of Health, Agriculture, Food Quality and human rights field to investigate the quality of food. The Commission also recommended for putting the tag in every food items incorporating the information like place of origin, quality control certificate, introduction of importer and consumption date of the good. In its 11-point recommendations to the government the commission also recommended the government to protect right to food and pure drinking water of the people of remote hilly district and also provide relief package to diarrhea affected people.</p> <p>The report also mentioned that it will draw the attention of WFP chief Richard Regan and other UN agencies about the letter sent by Regan to chairperson of INSEC Subodh Raj Pyakurel. NHRC will draw Regan's attention to the statement "You also reference in your chronology issues around alleged sale of WFP food. I'm not sure why you've raised this issue since it has little to do with either human rights or the epidemic," to INSEC chairperson Pyakurel made in his letter sent on September 4, 2009.</p> <p>Addressing the report release program Chief Commissioner of NHRC Kedar Nath Upadhaya urged to distribute food received in aid from donor agencies after quality test. "400 people died due to diarrhea as there is no mechanism to check it, so the government should form a judicial commission to check the incident and take action against perpetrators," Upadhaya added. He further opined that as people's right to food is associated with people's right to live the issue should be taken seriously.</p> <p>Similarly, speaking at the report release program, Spokesperson of NHRC Gauri Pradhan said that Right to Food is human rights and added that the UDHR also mentioned Right to Food as human rights.</p>	



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	<p>INSEC released a monitoring report of the food distributed in Jajarkot district on August 15 and handed over the samples of food distributed under Food for Work Program of UN WFP and collected by INSEC to Consumers Rights Protection Forum for quality test at the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control. The quality test report of the department stated that the food was inedible.</p>	
October 26	<p>State Minister for Health and Population Khadag Bahadur Basyal Sharki has claimed that cholera outbreak had turned into epidemic in hilly districts of Mid-western Region due to wrong reporting of doctors.</p> <p>According to news published in Nepal Samacharpatra daily on October 26, state minister Basyal informed that the doctors briefed the ministry that the epidemic, which has claimed the lives of over 400 people, is just diarrhea and will come into control within few days. He also added that the doctors did not disclose the real disease with the fear that there will be discrimination to the sick people if it was revealed that the patients are suffering from cholera due to the superstition existing in the district.</p> <p>The newspaper further writes that the diarrhea outbreak turned into epidemic due to consumption of dirty water, using the water, which was used to clean rice, to cook pulse and lack of sanitation. The news further said that the problem became complicated as doctors could not go to hilly districts.</p>	Nepal Samacharpatra daily, October 26, 2009, Pg 5
October 14	<p>The people affected by diarrhea epidemic in the districts are yet to get the food aid of 10 kgs of rice and one kg of salt that the PM and Health Ministers had promised during their visit to affected areas. In worst-affected districts of Jajarkot and Rukum, the food reached the district</p>	Nagarik, October 15, 2009, Pg 5



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	headquarters in early September but is stocked in godowns. The reason cited by the officials is that the amount is enough for only about half of the eligible people. In other 10 districts, though financial support ranging from 10 to 15,000 was distributed, there is no food aid to distribute. Even the district officials have expressed ignorance about any such promise of food aid made by PM and the minister.	
October 2	Preliminary report of the government panel, which is yet to be made public, has blamed the UN agency and contractors supplying low quality food to the Mid and Far western region for the diarrhea epidemic.	The Himalayan Times, October 3, pg 5
September 15	Government sent a team to the districts affected by recent diarrhea epidemic to assess the causes and the standard of food distributed by WFP.	The Himalayan Times, September 16, pg 6
September 10	Local political leaders asked DEPROCS to distribute the food in the district only after testing the quality. The political parties accused the organization of distributing rotten rice last year while warning it of barring from working in the district if the food was found being sub-standard quality again.	Kantipur daily, September 11, 2009, pg 16
September 9	INSEC issued a statement expressing strong reservation over the allegation of DEPROCS Nepal that food distribution was stopped in Jajarkot district after INSEC raised concern over the quality of food distributed by the organization. "It seemed that the WFP and its partner organization are not serious towards the problems being faced by the food crisis affected districts as these organizations stopped distribution of food rather than improving the quality of food and distribution channel," the statement added.	http://inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&id=5323(=en
September 9	The news report published in Annapurna Post and The Himalayan Times dailies on September 9 quoted Jagat Dutt Pant of WFP's partner organization DEPROCS in Jajarkot as saying that food distribution was stopped in the district after INSEC raised question about the quality of food distributed in Jajarkot district.	The Himalayan Times, September 9, 2009, Pg 1
September 7	NHRC organized an interaction programme among the stake holders	http://inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&id=5307(=en



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	<p>on September 7 to discuss the issue of WFP food quality. Speaking at the program, Chief Commissioner of National Human Rights Commission, Kedarnath Upadhaya has opined that a judicial commission should be set up to investigate whether the food distributed in the Mid and Far Western Regions is also a cause of diarrhea. Another commissioner of the Commission Gauri Pradhan said that the Commission will carry out further investigation on the issue. Chairperson of INSEC, Subodh Raj Pyakurel said that many media carried out news reports in the past as well about the food distributed by WFP. Chairperson of INSEC, Subodh Raj Pyakurel said that many media carried out news reports in the past as well about the food distributed by WFP. Representative of World Food Program Lila Raj Upadhaya said the food is being distributed after meeting the quality set by the Nepal government and added sample collection process is a technical one and the quality test was below the standard claiming there was no ground to say that the WFP-distributed food is substandard.</p>	
September 4	<p>WFP issued a statement saying its country director Richard Ragan had received a letter from the government as refuting the claim of WFP-distributed food being cause of diarrhea outbreak in Mid and Far Western Region The statement quoted the government as repeating Ministry of Health and Population version that poor hygiene was responsible for the outbreak. Saying that the government had commended the WFP claim and efforts on quality control regarding food and attempt to distribute quality food in remote area, WFP statement added the government had informed about formation of a committee to investigate into the questions raised by civil society.</p>	Annapurna Post, September 5, 2009, Pg 4
September 4	<p>INSEC learnt that in Jajarkot district, Rural Infrastructure Development Program, a local NGO, destroyed 270 kg rice supplied by WFP to distribute under Food for Work Program on August 9 after the food was found rotten and not consumable. The rice was destroyed</p>	http://inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&id=5267(=en



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	<p>in presence of official of WFP Regional Office Nepalgunj Anil Rupakheti after the food stored in a depot in Sima VDC-8. GTZ, another partner organization of WFP, dumped 16 quintals of lentil stored at the godown in Deshara VDC-8 Thahal in Cheda River after it was found substandard. The Department of Food Technology and Quality Control had dispatched a team led by food inspector Bhesh Bahadur Thapa on August 21 to inspect the quality of food distributed by WFP under Food for Work Program. Local journalists and rights defenders claimed that the visit of food inspector is irrelevant as the partner organizations of WFP had already destroyed the substandard food.</p>	
September 2	<p>Rice and lentils to be distributed by local NGO DEPROCS under WFP's Food for Work program has not reached Jajarkot. WFP had agreement with NGO DEPROCS for the distribution of the rice in 13 of 18 VDCs of the district from August 1. DEPROCS' local official said that though they had already sent the estimate of the food, it has yet to arrived which has affected the people already suffering from food shortage and recent diarrhea outbreak.</p>	Gorkhapatra daily, September 3, Pg, 3
August 27	<p>A team of CA members led by Humla CA member Karnajit Budhathoki held a press conference in Birendranagar of Surkhet on August 26 after its visit to the diarrhea-hit Kalika VDC of Humla. According to the team, about persons had died due to diarrhea some of them a week ago but the information arrived late owing to the remoteness of the terrain. At the press conference, CA member Budhathoki said that though there were news articles saying the people had got diarrhea from rotten meat, the team did not find anybody consuming meat around that time in Kalika VDC. The team concluded that consumption of rotten rice distributed WFP was responsible for the outbreak. Budhathoki added that the team found that the rice seemed inedible with color changed into green.</p>	http://www.weeklynepal.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27956&Itemid=39
August 25	<p>WFP Nepal country director Richard Regan said that WFP was ready to stop distribution of food if Nepal government says that it is not upto</p>	Gorkhapatra daily, August 25, 2009



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	the standard. WFP communications officer Heather Stuliff stated that her office was working in coordination with all the concerned government ministries but spokesperson of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Dr Hari Prasad Dhakal said that there was no coordination with his Ministry and that decision process of procurement and distribution of the food items is not transparent.	
August 24	Consumers Rights Protection Forum (CRPF) made public the report of quality test of the samples of food items collected in Jajarkot at a press conference in Kathmandu. Saying that the rice was so decayed that its color has changed, the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control said the food is not consumable for animals and birds as well.	http://inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&id=5125(=en
August 24	World Food Program has suspended food distribution in Jajarkot district. According to DEPORCS Jajarkot head Kusum Kishor Bhattarai, the distribution was halted from second week of August after INSEC raised the issue of food quality.	http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-08/24/content_11935286.htm
August 20	Senior food technologist Pramod Koirala of Department of Food Technology and Quality Control said that WFP has been ignoring the Department's direction to import rice accompanied with certificate of food quality, certificate informing whether it is genetically modified or not, clarifying the standard of rice. The direction was issued in writing on June 1, 2008 asking WFP to buy rice in the presence of food technologist and distribute it only after testing the quality. The quality of the rice that was tested by Department after receiving it for testing from Consumers' Rights Protection Forum is similar to the quality of the rice that was stopped from entry to Nepal in Bhairahawa on June/July of 2009. On that incident, the Department had stopped import of 16.5 tones of rice for being sub-standard in quality.	Nagarik, August 21, 2009
August 20	Department of Food Technology and Quality Control found that the samples of the food collected in Jajarkot were inedible.	Annapurna Post, August 21, 2009
August 20	WFP informed that it would file a case against INSEC after INSEC charged that WFP-distributed low standard food had caused diarrhea in Jajarkot district. Claming that there was not wrong with the food	Gorkhapatra, August 21, 2009



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	distributed by WFP, its Bheri-Rapti coordinator Kishor Bhandari said INSEC Chairperson would be dragged to court for making baseless charge. He also challenged to prove that the food distributed by WFP was of sub-standard quality.	
August 19	WFP and WHO published a joint letter refuting INSEC Chairperson Subodh Raj Pyakurel's claim that WFP provided rice, cooking oil and pulses had caused cholera in Mid-Western Region of Nepal. If further said the unscientific statement from INSEC chairperson might imperil the lives of the local people to greater extent.	Nepal Samacharpatra, August 19, 2009
August 17	The offices of the Regional Health Directorate and District Public Health Office have claimed that the death toll due to diarrhea epidemic that spread in Jajarkot has come under control. For the last one week, there has not been any report of deaths due to diarrhea in Jajarkot.	The Rising Nepal, August 18, 2009
August 16	CA's UCPN-Maoist member Bharat Regmi suffered from diarrhea after he reached one of the affected VDCs Nepa with a team of health workers dispatched by the party. Kamala Roka, the CA member from Rukum also caught the disease.	Kantipur, August 16, 2009
August 15	INSEC handed over the food samples collected in Jajarkot to CPRF to be tested for their quality after making them public at a report release program.	http://inseconline.org/linkedfile/Pressmeet_15Aug_Eng.pdf
August 15	INSEC released a monitoring report on diarrhea outbreak of Mid-Western and Far-Western Regions where INSEC chairperson Subodh Raj Pyakurel said rigid tradition, people choosing domestic treatment and shamans over modern treatment, no maintenance of the water resources damaged during the conflict, the compulsion of the people to drink polluted water from dirty water tanks and sub-standard quality of the food are the causes for the outbreak of diarrhea.	http://inseconline.org/linkedfile/Pressmeet_15Aug_Eng.pdf
August 15	Regional Health Directorate Surkhet said that of the 101 posts of doctors in Dailekh, Jajarkot, Rukum, Salyan, Rolpa, Surkhet, Dang and Dolpa districts of Mid Western Region, only 33 doctors have been working there. Of the four posts of doctors in Jajarkot district currently only one doctor has been working. Similarly, of the 70 posts of doctors	http://inseconline.org/linkedfile/Diarrhea_report_Eng.pdf



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	in the Far Western Region only 39 doctors have been appointed. The health posts and sub-health posts also did not have sufficient human resource.	
August 15	DEPROCS Nepal's Pitambar Acharya who was present at the INSEC report release program said that his organization had turned back tens of truckloads of rice when the samples and the food brought for distribution did not match and also returned 16 trucks of rice brought for distribution to the Kosi-affected people and the rice which had reached Jajarkot because of quality issue.	http://inseconline.org/linkedfile/Pressmeet_15Aug_Eng.pdf
August 13	The World Health Organization, country office for Nepal, has denied that WFP rice, edible oils and lentils had caused the outbreak of cholera in the mid-west hills of Nepal.	The Rising Nepal, August 14, 2009
August 9	INSEC Mid-Western Regional Office, Nepalgunj conducted a fact-finding mission in Jajarkot from August 4 to August 9 to collect the samples of rice and pulses distributed under the WFP project of 'Food for Work'. The samples included the ration that Samapati Sarki of Samaila of Dhime VDC-8 got from GTZ for working on the compound wall of Janata Lower Secondary School from Mid-May to Mid-June. Like, the samples were also collected from the store of Ram Prasad Gharti, 40, resident of Simalchauri in Khalanga VDC-2 and teacher at Tribhuvan Higher Secondary School and chairperson of Democratic NGO Federation.	INSEC
August 8	Health Minister Umakant Chaudhary made his third visit to Jajarkot with 18 quintals of medicines. There he pledged to avoid any loss of life due to health workers and medicines and construction of orphanages to support children who lost their parents.	http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/gopa.detail.php?article_id=22507&cat_id=14
August 6	United National Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs publicized a report on the diarrheal outbreak in the Mid-western region on August 6. According to the report, the death toll in 115 VDCs of 17 districts had reached 223 till now. It also said that the number of districts reporting diarrheal cases were on the rise. According to World	The Himalayan Times, August 6, 2009



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	Health Organisation, the number of deaths in Jajarkot and Rukum are slowly decreasing. Eight samples were tested positive for Vibrio Cholera out of the 20 samples collected from the two districts, it reported.	
August 6	INSEC Far-Western Regional coordinator Khadak Raj Joshi issued a statement asking all the concerned bodies to seriously take steps to resolve the problem of diarrhea which spread to the districts Far-West from Mid-West.	http://inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&id=4939(=en
August 4	WFP Nepal's communications officer Heather Sutliff said that even if the rice is rotten, nothing will happen if the people know how to use it properly, otherwise people will suffer from diarrhea. She added that if people use unclean hand to eat and use the food without washing, they might get cholera. She also denied that food distributed by WFP had caused cholera in the Mid-Western Region.	Naya Patrika daily, August 5, 2009
August 4	Appellate Bar Association, District Bar Association, Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), Nepal Bar Association Human Rights Project, Advocacy Forum, HimRights, KIRDAC, Human Rights Council, RRN, Nepal Human Rights Association, Human Rights and Peace Society and Human Rights Protection Forum are among the human rights organizations urged the government to test the food distributed in the remote districts of mid-western region by World Food Program (WFP).	http://inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&id=4919(=en
August 4	National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) demanded for the identification of the causes of diarrhea spread in the districts of Mid and Far West Regions and asked for steps to contain the disease and action against the individual or organization responsible for the spread of the disease. Releasing its report, NHRC demanded for a special investigation committee and publicizing of the facts. The report further said shortage of ORS and other medicines, distribution of medicines without any test due to lack of laboratories in health centers, the vacant positions of medics at health and sub-health centers had led to spread of the disease out of control. It has further asked for the quality test of	http://www.nhrcnepal.org//nepali/index.php



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	the food distributed by organizations and ensuring the clean drinking water to the people.	
August 3	Supreme Court has issued an interim order in the name of the government asking it to check the spread of diarrhea outbreak by immediately managing medicines and health personnel. The order was issued saying that the government had neglected containing the contagious disease.	Annapurna Post, August 4, 2009
August 3	Health Minister Uma Kanta Chaudhary claimed that the diarrhea outbreak raging in Mid-Western Region had already come under control. He added that a relief package comprising of water purifying campaign, building 5,000 toilets within three years, distributing 10 kg of rice and 1 kg of salt to each diarrhea patient, CDMA phone in each VDC and free medicines among others.	Rajdhani daily, August 4, 2009
August 2	INSEC Mid-Western Regional Office released a report on the diarrhea outbreak spread in the region. Speaking at the program, INSEC chairperson Subodh Raj Pyakurel said that the substandard quality of food distributed World Food Program as aid was also responsible for worsening situation of diarrhea outbreak. He further said that the lack of basic information regarding diarrhea, rigid tradition, severe drought, defecating in the open, malnutrition and indifference towards reconstruction of drinking water sources destroyed or damaged by the Maoists during the conflict had also aggravated the situation. He also demanded for the quality test of the standard of the food being distributed under WFP project. Former INSEC chairperson and former NHRC commissioner Sushil Pyakurel said that the transfer of CDOs for their inability to fulfill the duty without taking action was impunity. He asserted that creating an environment where the government failed to implement constitutional right to health was, in a way, the killing of the people.	http://inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&id=4905(=en
August 2	Many health workers sent to diarrhea-affected areas returned complaining about lack of coordination though the health problem is still out of control. It is said at least 50 out of arriving 91 medics	http://ekantipur.com/kolnepalnews.php?nid=207424



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For Human Rights and Social Justice

Date	Details	Source
	returned from Jajarkot. Jajarkot CDO Resham Bahadur Pandey said 16 new Assistant Health Workers had been recruited and medicines were being transported on mules.	
July 31	A parliamentary sub-committee has been set up to monitor the government efforts in diarrhea-hit area. The parliament's Women, Children and Social Welfare Committee had formed the 11-member sub-committee with CA member DB Karki as the coordinator.	http://ekantipur.com/kolnepalinews.php?nid=207164
July 30	A Geneva-based humanitarian organization Action by Churches Together International approved Rs 4.5 million from its Rapid Response Fund and sent it to Lutheran World Federation Nepal for the support of people affected from diarrhea outbreak.	The Himalayan Times, August 1, 2009
July 24	Following a ten day research expedition, Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC) has warned of a cholera outbreak in the diarrhea-hit area of Jajarkot and the surrounding districts and urged all the stakeholders for a rigorous medical intervention to avert one. NHRC has sent on July 12 a three-member research team to investigate into the diarrhea epidemic, its causes and measures to control it.	The Rising Nepal, July 24, 2009
July 21	During his visit to diarrhea-affected region, PM Madhav Kumar Nepal pledges to provide Rs 10,000 to the family losing a member and additional Rs 5,000 to economically weak families. PM Nepal visited the diarrhea-affected districts on July 21. During his visit, he pledged to provide everything from doctors, medicines and relief and hoped that the epidemic would come under control.	http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/gopa.detail.php?article_id=21559&cat_id=14
July 20	Human Rights Network, Nepalgunj has urged the government to take steps to control the diarrhea spread in the Mid-Western Nepal as the death toll continues to rise and government efforts falls short of protection of people's rights to health and life.	http://inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&id=22867(=np
July 10	Media report said subsidized rice being imported from Bhairahawa custom post for WFP's project 'Food for Work' was being sold at local market by the importers at lower than market price. Local rice producers and traders have appealed to Sidharthanagar Chamber of	http://ekantipur.com/kolnepalinews.php?nid=203385



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	<p>Commerce and Industry to end the sale of rice imported for WFP. An insider at Bhairahawa Custom Office said that though, a quality test certificate is essential to import the rice from foreign country, it was overlooking the provision. Bhim Prasad Pulami, head of Regional Office of Food Technology and Quality Control (FTQC), Bhairahawa said his office had not got any request from the Custom Office asking for the quality test of the rice. FTQC Department's Director Uttam Kumar Bhattarai said the import of foreign rice without quality control is illegal and if it more important to test the quality of rice brought under WFP project. WFP Nepal Director Richard Regan said his office was not involved in any monitoring or controlling of the imported rice and that its responsibility lies entirely on the Nepali Custom Offices. Earlier, the police had recovered 1 ton 25 quintals of rice being loaded from an Indian truck at Basantpur VDC-8 near Bhairahawa. The rice claimed to have been imported for WFP did not have any logo or any quality control certificate.</p>	
July 10	<p>PM Madhav Kumar Nepal directed health secretary Dirgha Singh Bam to deploy medical teams including that of army and police at local levels of diarrhea-hit districts.</p> <p>Dr Senendra Raj Upreti, the director at Epidemiology and Disease Control Directorate took leave effective from July 10 for his visit abroad. Health Service Department's director Govinda Ojha said he was taking leave to go abroad for personal reason.</p>	http://ekantipur.com/kolnepalinews.php?nid=203434
July 8	<p>INSEC Mid-Western Regional Office, Nepalgunj has issued a statement expressing concern over the increasing diarrhea death toll. The statement said 88 persons in Jajarkot had been killed and asked the government for finding out the cause of the disease and controlling it.</p>	http://inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&id=22437(=np
June 4	<p>Diarrhea outbreak is turning into an epidemic with 21 villagers dying by June 3. Media report said a team of health workers led by district health office Jajarkot's Dr Krishna Hari Subedi went to affected areas during third week of May and but seven more died after the team returned claimed the outbreak was under control. The villagers</p>	http://ekantipur.com/kolnepalinews.php?nid=197508



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Date	Details	Source
	reported they were taken ill after consuming rice and pulses distributed by DEPROCS Nepal under WFP project adding the rice was rotten and powder-like and pulses are very hard to be cooked.	
May 15	Health minister Girirajmani Pokharel expressed dismay at the number of deaths in the diarrhea-affected villages in Jajarkot where he had just conducted an inspection visit. According to reports, 13 people have so far lost their lives in Jajarkot because of not receiving timely treatment amidst a diarrhea outbreak that has gripped the district since last month. Over 3,000 people in the villages, about 25 kilometers from the district headquarters, are said to be suffering from diarrhea. The District Public Health Office said it has sent four medical teams to the affected area, but the epidemic has not come under control.	www.nepalnews.com , May 15, 2009

PS: Related incidents in previous years

1. On June 2007, the locals of Dailekh districts obstructed disposition of the rice, meant for people of Jumla as aid under World Food Program's 'Food for Work' program. The rice was stored in godown in Dailekh headquarters for four years after which the Department of Food Technology and Quality Found not only inedible for human and livestock but also unsuitable to be dumped in river for fear of polluting the water. The locals snatched the rice as it was being burned and also dug up the rice buried.

One newspaper wrote editorial in which it said "The WFP dispatched over 366 quintals of rice to Jumla under the "food for work" program. As there was no motorable road up to Jumla, the rice got stuck at Dailekh, waiting for the Consumers and District Development Committees to carry it farther. The Jumlis did not trek down to Dailekh to carry the rice because carrying a sack of rice would have taken too much time and money. For the Jumlis, there was no point in fetching the WFP rice from Dailekh. WFP Nepal office should have known this well in advance instead of storing 366 quintals of rice in Dailekh only to let the food-grains be rotten". Even two years ago, similar scene was sighted when the people looted rice about to be destroyed in Dailekh district headquarters.

<http://ekantipur.com/kolnepalnews.php?nid=114082>; <http://ekantipur.com/kolnepalnews.php?nid=114180>; <http://ekantipur.com/kolnepalnews.php?nid=114242>)

2. A serious diarrhea outbreak has claimed the lives of six persons in Foimahadev VDC of remote Kalikot district in the past one-week.

According to former VDC chairman Ain Bahadur Shahi, Dugi Damai, 60 and Mathu Damai, 30 of ward no 1; Bishnu Pandey, 28 and Jamakal Hamal, 35 of ward no 2; Kabilal Mahatara, 60 of ward no 3 and Jaikali Pandey, 60 of ward no 8 of the VDC died after falling victim to a serious bout of diarrhea.



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Saying that those falling sick with diarrhea are not getting any treatment due to lack of any medicine at the local health center, Shahi said that more than 200 others in different wards of the village have been suffering with the disease.

nepalnews.com ag Oct 10 07

3. Head of Sidharthanagar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SiCCI) Mahendra Kumar Shrestha wrote a letter to chief of Bhairahawa Custom Office in Bhairahawa on February 9, 2009 drawing his attention to open sale of custom-free rice imported for the WFP project. The letter further says that such rice imported for special cause should have been packed in sack with name of the importing organization printed but it is packed in normal sack. Asking the Custom Office to ensure that WFP rice comes in sacks with importer and causes printed in the sack, SiCCI has said that proper monitoring on whether the rice reaches the intended people would have controlled such illegal act and tax evasion.

Sidharthanagar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SiCCI) letter to Chief of Bhairahawa Custom Office, Bhairahawa, registration number: 065/66 (297)

4. Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness recognizes that the aid process is not transparent and democratic and that reforms are necessary to make the official development assistance received by developing countries effective in reducing poverty. The Paris Declaration promotes the untying of aid, a promising sign of recognition of the right of the developing countries to determine and priorities their own needs.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/11/41/34428351.pdf>

People dying due to diarrhea

(April 30, 2009 to August 24, 2009)

District	Total
Achham	32
Baitadi	10
Bajhang	9
Bajura	13
Dadeldhura	3
Dailekh	35
Dang	2
Dolpa	11
Doti	9
Jajarkot	236



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Kailali	3
Kalikot	5
Kanchanpur	2
Rolpa	8
Rukum	57
Salyan	5
Surkhet	13
Humla	11
Total	464



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