

CBM's Response to the Nepal Flash Floods

Supporting a disability-inclusive humanitarian response

On 26 August 2026, a devastating flash flood occurred in the Bhotekoshi region of Nepal, destroying homes, infrastructure and essential services. At least 1,453 people have died and over 5,200 remain missing.

The impact on people with disabilities

While the impact of the flood has been catastrophic for the whole region, we know that when disaster hits, people with disabilities are four times more likely to die and often face additional barriers to safety and emergency aid.

Temporary shelters may be difficult to enter or move around. Damaged roads, bridges and local services can make it even harder to evacuate safely or reach the support they need.

Early reports indicate that many have lost assistive devices and mobility aids in the floods.

Mental health needs are also growing with children and adults carrying the trauma of loss, displacement and uncertainty.

"People with disabilities are too often the last to be reached and the first to be forgotten in an emergency. Children and adults who are deaf can't hear warnings. People who are blind or have physical disabilities struggle to reach safety. People with intellectual disabilities may be frightened, traumatised or separated from their families. We cannot let them be left behind."

Jane Edge, Chief Executive of CBM Australia



Bhawana's story

For Bhawana, a mother with vision and hearing impairments, the catastrophe came without warning.

She was washing clothes on the riverbank, unable to hear the emergency alarms, when her husband and neighbours screamed for her to run.

"The flood took everything. I feel lucky. If my husband and the neighbours hadn't called me, I would have died on the river."

Bhawana, Flood Survivor



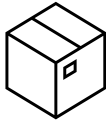
How CBM is responding

CBM is working to ensure people with disabilities are included in response efforts.

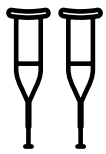
We are contributing to the Nepal Government's overall National Response Plan, and working with trusted local partners including Organisations of People with Disabilities, to ensure people with disabilities are included in every stage of the humanitarian response.

Our initial response is focused on the most severely affected districts of Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading. This includes engaging with the Association of International NGOs in Nepal to strengthen disability inclusion across the broader response.

Together, we are:



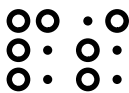
- **Distributing basic needs packages, comprising of winterization kits and hygiene kits** ensuring at risk populations, including people with disabilities, have access to inclusive basic needs.



- **Providing assistive devices and emergency rehabilitation equipment**, including spinal collars, knee supports, lumbar belts, arm slings, ankle supports and crutches. For people with disabilities, losing assistive technology during a disaster can significantly reduce mobility, independence and access to relief services. Replacing essential devices as soon as possible is a critical step by helping restore function and reducing barriers to accessing support.



- **Supporting people in relief centres and affected communities with psychological first aid and counselling.** While disasters can be distressing for everyone, people with psychosocial, cognitive and other less visible disabilities may face greater risks and more complex support needs. Inclusive psychosocial support helps address these challenges, promotes wellbeing and resilience, and ensures people can participate more fully in recovery efforts.



- **Advocating for accessible information, facilities and services, and for people with disabilities to take part in decisions that affect them.** Accessible communication ensures people who are blind, have low vision, are Deaf or hard of hearing, or have cognitive disabilities can receive and understand critical information. Removing communication and accessibility barriers enables more equitable access to services and supports meaningful participation in decisions that affect their lives.

Public support

CBM Australia supporters have responded generously to the disaster in Nepal, raising more than \$600,000 through our emergency appeal.

As a member of the EAA (Emergency Action Alliance), the collective appeal has raised more than \$14 million, including a contribution from the Australian Government. This funding will support urgent humanitarian and life-saving assistance.

Long road to recovery

Over the months to come, **continued support will be critical** as communities recover.

CBM with its partners will continue to work together to ensure people with disabilities are part of the recovery efforts.

