

Our Solidarity With Communities Affected by the Rasuwa Floods

Open Internet Nepal (Internet Society Nepal Chapter) extends its deepest condolences to the families who have lost loved ones in the devastating floods in Rasuwa and other affected areas. Our thoughts are with those grieving, those searching for missing family members, those injured, and all communities facing the loss of homes, livelihoods, and loved ones.

We recognize and appreciate the extraordinary efforts of rescue teams, security forces, volunteers, and local communities working under extremely difficult conditions to save lives and support those affected.

We also welcome the immediate measures announced by the Ministry of Information and Communication, Nepal Telecom, and Ncell to facilitate free communication services in affected areas. In a disaster, the ability to call for help, receive critical information, and remain connected with family and emergency responders can be a lifeline.

This crisis also underscores a critical reality: telecommunications and Internet infrastructure are essential infrastructure during disasters. When physical infrastructure, electricity, roads, and communication networks are disrupted simultaneously, the ability of communities and responders to coordinate rescue, relief, and recovery is severely affected.

As immediate search, rescue, and relief efforts continue, we urge all concerned authorities and service providers to prioritize the rapid restoration and continuity of communication services in affected areas and to ensure that reliable and verified emergency information reaches communities.

Looking beyond the immediate crisis, Nepal must strengthen the resilience of its digital infrastructure through backup power, redundant fibre and backhaul routes, alternative connectivity, and stronger coordination between telecom operators and disaster-response agencies. Disaster preparedness must include communications resilience as an essential component of saving lives and protecting communities.

Open Internet Nepal stands in solidarity with everyone affected by this tragedy and appreciates all those working on the ground to support rescue, relief, and recovery.

“In times of disaster, connectivity is a lifeline. It must be resilient when people need it most.”