
Khotang Landslide in Nepal

On July 14, 2002, three different landslides have been occurred in Khotang District of Eastern Nepal caused by heavy rains. At least 46 people are feared dead and another 150 missing in three different and simultaneous landslides in Sungdel and Dipsung VDC areas of Khotang District on Sunday. The landslide swept away 29 houses and a health post of the areas. More than 95 houses have been totally damaged. According to VDC secretary, 42 people have been killed in ward No. 2 and No. 6 of the Sungdel VDC while 4 others have been killed in Dipsung VDC-2. Both these VDCs are located about 20 Km North of Diktel, District headquarter of Khotang. Among those killed in the landslides are seven members of a single family and 13 travelers who were staying in VDC Chairman's house as guests. The toll could be much higher as many more people could be buried underneath the rubble or swept away by torrential rain, locals fear. Four people were killed in Nagayo Village of the Dipsung VDC-2. A lower Secondary School and a house were also swept away by the landslide. Monsoon-induced landslides and flooding are common disaster in Nepal. Each year, hundreds of people die in such disasters and property worth millions of rupees are destroyed.

Rajendra Khanal,
General Secretary, Nepal Geological Society