

Nepal Red Cross Society

Situation Report : COVID-19 Preparedness and Response

#165

8/25/2020

As of 24th August 2020, the global death is 806410 (5501) with 23311719 (253963) being infected and more than 1,20,00,000 recovered from COVID-19 pandemic.

Ministry of Health and Population confirmed 855 new COVID-19 cases, with this the total number of confirmed case has reached to 33533 and total death count has reached 164 as of 25th of August 2020.

Ministry of Health and Population, Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC), is leading the response with the support of UN agencies and many other organizations. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) is also the part of it, with the support of movement partners and government agencies at all levels NRCS is responding to the current situation. NRCS emergency operation Centre (EOC) was activated on 6th of February 2020 and 165 SITREPS released with the activities held in 77 District chapters of Red Cross. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), supported by Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement and non-Movement partners bears unique responsibilities and added value when it comes to responding to any emergencies. Meanwhile, NRCS is supporting the Government in COVID-19 response and preparedness through various sectoral activities being implemented through its local branches to meet the needs of community in this current pandemic

Nepal MOHP website; https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/	
Total samples tested:	621901
Tested negative:	588368
Tested positive:	33533
Recovered	19119
Deaths:	164
Total no. of people in quarantine	10453
Total no of people in isolation	14250

Highlight:

NRCS COVID-19 Preparedness and Response at glance:

COVID-19, one of the notorious pandemics that has spread around the globe is claiming more and more lives. Nepal has not been an exception to this case. In Nepal, there are 33533 confirmed cases with 164 deaths so far. Government alone cannot stop the pandemic and this emergency requires solidarity and action of everyone. As part of, Nepal Government has widened the scope of testing thereby establishing testing facilities in 39 stations throughout the nation. Considering the increased number of cases, various local government have re-imposed restriction measures and even lockdown. The cases in Kathmandu is also on the rise. Considering the potential spread of COVID-19, government has imposed lockdown in Kathmandu valley from 19th-26th August 2020.

As an auxiliary to the government, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), supported by Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement and non-Movement partners bears unique responsibilities and added value when it comes to responding to any emergencies. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has been involved in COVID-19 preparedness and response since early February 2020 in coordination with the Ministry of Health (MOHP), and Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC). NRCS provincial and district chapters are engaged in various activities: food distribution, quarantine management, ambulance services, awareness raising activities, tents/tarpaulins and non-food relief items (NFRI), restoring family links, psychosocial first aid, health/help desk, personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitizers, hygiene kits, soaps and information educational and communication (IEC) materials. The NRCS frontline workers are also ensured with the safety and security along with insurance provision. Along with COVID-19, NRCS is also involved in monsoon preparedness and response activities. The planned activities are in line with Government of Nepal initiatives and NRCS COVID-19 preparedness and response approach paper.

NRCS is responding to this crisis through NRCS COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Operation which is reached out through 5 services (Health and Care, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Shelter, Protection Gender Inclusion (PGI) and Risk Communication and Community engagement and Accountability (RC-CEA), 2 enabling action: National Society Development (NSD), Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting-Information Management (PMER-IM) and 3 key support functions: Human resources and duty of care, Finance and risk management, Logistics and Information technologies. All the services are being carried out in close coordination and consultation with concerned stakeholder at central, provincial and local level. As the confirmed cases are on rise, NRCS's network of branches and volunteers are being mobilized significantly.

NRCS Five Key Services for COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Operation:

1. Health and Care:

This is the leading and most important sector to act given the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. NRCS has a rich experience in health and has been well recognized by government authorities and partners for its response during and forth emergency time. At this time of COVID response, NRCS has ensured the continuity of essential services such as blood transfusion, ambulance and hospital etc. However the security of the staffs and volunteer providing such services had been the top most priority.

Hence, availability of adequate PPEs and related orientation/trainings to the frontline service providers had been ensured. Realizing the needs of frontline service provider's safety as they are highly exposed to the potential risk of COVID-19, Infection Prevention Control (IPC) training was conducted to ambulance driver, blood transfusion service provider, NRCS volunteer and staffs with an objective of orienting the participants on Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE), its use, and IPC, hygiene promotion session along with Risk Communication and Community Engagement and Accountability (RC-CEA).

Likewise, support had been provided for community based surveillance and contact tracing, volunteer mobilization as per the request of health authorities. Adequate communication protocol are also in place. As this unprecedented situation had impact the normal life, people are facing many emotional challenges. Moreover, NRCS had initiated and continued to provide psychosocial support to individuals/communities, people in quarantine and isolation in need through various channels that includes mobilization of Red Cross Emergency Clinic (RCEC), Psychosocial First Aid to the frontline service providers. Moreover, online learning platform for PSS and PFA session had been initiated to avoid the limitation of sharing the knowledge to the service provider due to the nationwide lockdown impacts.

2. Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

There is global evidence for WASH sector to have direct impact on collective ability to prevent the spread of any diseases and similar is the case for COVID-19. NRCS holds strong expertise and long experience on this sector. As a part of COVID-19 operation, NRCS has ensured the provision of WASH services through installation of contactless hand washing station that would prevent the potential spread of COVID-19, construction of emergency toilets in various quarantine site.

Similarly WASH relief items (hygiene kit viz. mask, hand washing soap, brush, toothpaste, small towel, tissue paper, sanitizer, dignity kit for menstrual health management etc.) has been distributed to the infected person in quarantine and isolation sites as well as to prisons in consultation to district and local level authorities. Likewise, installation of water points in strategic locations (market place, health facilities, public places, entry points etc.) along with hygiene promotion campaigns (focusing in particular proper hand washing) followed with distribution of soap, buckets and jugs are on progress. Also, distribution of drinking water to the people returning from India, and people at holding Centre at different districts had been conducted. In cooperation with local authorities, disinfection campaigns were conducted where disinfection of public areas including the cultural heritage site like temple, community gathering areas, surroundings of public service point, disinfection of vehicle at various entry point were carried.



NRCS staffs and volunteers are dispatching Personal Protective equipment (PPEs). NRCS joined hand with Coca-Cola to support PPE to the health professionals and NRCS Front Liners (Photo: NRCS ,HQs)



NRCS staff and volunteers involved in door to door hand washing campaign in Myagdi district (Photo: NRCS Myagdi)

3. Risk Communication and Community Engagement and Accountability:

While engaging with communities and larger populations in the response to COVID-19, it is important to understand the needs of specific groups who might experience barriers to accessing information, care and support or be at higher risk of exposure and secondary impacts, such as children and adults with disabilities, who are even excluded. Nepal Red Cross Society working closely with other partners is working to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and also closely with affected communities, engage with them and in some cases, make them champions of change in reaching out to their peers and communities as part of the COVID-19 response efforts. NRCS is always trying to provide the critical and live saving information, response to concerns and questions and counteract misinformation and promote positive behaviors during this Pandemic.

Diverse channels are used to engage with the community such as Facebook, twitter, radio, hotline and other means to communicate with wider population and especially with the people at risk and affected populations. NRCS is also working in rumors tracking mechanism and widely sharing the message regarding stigma. NRCS has started with new concept of Social media volunteering which is an open Facebook group where everyone can join. It is for peer to peer learning. NRCS has reached to 696844 people with different types of Information, Education and Communication materials.



A Red Cross volunteer of Bhaktapur District Chapter checking the temperature of pedestrian in 4th June 2020. The health desk was established in Thimi, Bhaktapur.

Innovation:

With the support of UNICEF, Nepal Red Cross Society has formed Unit Action Team in 50 palikas of selected 28 districts. Unit Action Team is a cluster of population comprising 20-30 households to be led by locally nominated, dependable Team Leader. Number of Units are defined by local government, which should be geographically accessible pocket of households. Since their major task is to support Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMC), they will be activated in all disasters beyond COVID-19. Mainly Unit Action team is supporting to keep the record of every people entering the community, recognize the threats of the community and to keep the community informed with lifesaving messages and to support people with appropriate referral services during COVID-19.

4. Protection, gender and Inclusion (PGI)

During any crisis including COVID-19, some of the groups are more vulnerable to the health effects of diseases, some to increase risk of violence while others are more vulnerable to socio-economic impacts and other impacts. NRCS through continuous collection of information and analysis of risk to this disease will and support mainstreaming PGI at all stages of operation. Also, this service will ensure the provision of targeted social support (which may include food/non-food item or cash transfer as well as livelihood supports if available) to specific groups at risk (this could include the people living with disability, prisoners, children, elderly populations etc.).

Further, campaigns and community engagements activities for sexual and gender based violence prevention, along with fighting stigmatization (in particular of health personnel and COVID infected people) and any harmful practices (like domestic violence, exclusion, child abuse etc.) are on progress. Likewise, support for restoring family links as per the needs, at quarantine sites are being provided along with coordination and collaboration with the concerned stakeholder for the management of dead due to COVID. NRCS together with UNICEF is working together to support the unaccompanied, separated and other vulnerable child for appropriate care arrangements, referral to supporting mechanism, PSS and family reunification service in this COVID-19 pandemic situation. Districts under 5 province are selected for this programme (Province 1, Province 2, Province 5, Karnali Province and Sudurpashchim Province) which highly focus on most COVID affected districts and districts that connect with the India. NRCS will continue to mitigate the risk of children through coordination with government and non-government organization and its Red Cross Movement partners in any emergency and non-emergency period.



One of the Red Cross volunteer distributing IEC (Photo: Kaski district)

5. Shelter

COVID-19 crisis may not affect the physical structure in which people live, but also the physical and social condition under which the COVID infected people live, that includes the quarantine and isolation sites have an effect on the spread or containment of diseases. NRCS is supporting to establish and maintain proper management of food and accommodation at quarantine/isolation sites.

This includes ensuring the availability of Non Food Relief Items (NFRI) at quarantine/isolation site (both in setting up of such sites and then to people being sheltered). These are being carried out through regular coordination with the shelter cluster on quarantine sites. NRCS has provided with numbers of tarpaulins, tents, blankets, mosquito nets for the people living in quarantine and isolation of different districts.



Nepal Red Cross Society, Bhojpur district chapter has supported the establishment of the quarantine site Jaryotar. One of the governance volunteers of Bhojpur district chapter visited and monitored the site (Photo: Bhojpur District)

NRCS COVID-19 Preparedness and Response

Health and Care

Activity	New(8/25/2020)	Cumulative achievement
# of personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, hazmat suit) distributed		329448
# of community members receiving PFA		2342
# of people receiving Psychological First Aid Online training		356
# of ambulance services at districts		247
# of ambulance drivers oriented on Infection ,Prevention and Control(IPC) guideline		148
# of people reached through COVID-19 awareness sessions(Community orientation, school orientation, door to door visit, help desk, micing)		216844

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

# of hygiene kits distributed		572
# of people reached with hygiene promotion activities (hand washing demonstration and practical sessions)		8567
# hand washing stations		767
# of soaps distributed		35525
# of buckets distributed		4648
# of mugs distributed		1898
# people benefited with drinking water bottle (Point of entry, isolation, quarantine).		114708

Shelter

NFI supported at quarantine(Tarpaulin, tent, blanket, kitchen set,mosquito net etc)		
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# of Tents	1	463
# of tarpaulins	5	2422
# of blankets		14815
# of mosquito nets		3563
# of mattresses		7850
# of bed sheets		890
Risk Communication and Community Engagement and Accountability		
# of Information, Education and Communication(IEC) materials produced and distributed (pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banners, etc.)		696844
# of responded calls in NRCS hotline(1130)	6	705
# of COVID 19 specific episodes of radio programs		131
# of people oriented on cyberbullying virtually		275
Protection, Gender and Inclusion		
# of staff/volunteer oriented on PGI during COVID Response		63
# of street children and labor supported with temporary shelter		18
# people benefited with meal during lockdown		17933
# of dignity kits distributed in quarantine site		1081
# of Kishori Kits distributed in quarantine site		214
#Online PGI Orientation on COVID-19 Response		52
National Society Development		
# of NRCS volunteers mobilized during COVID 19 Response		1969
# of guideline developed to Response COVID 19		4

Note: Table shows the directly reached people only, number of people reached indirectly is more in number.

NRCS District level response(8/25/2020)

Doti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Radio program continuation. ➤ Provided 1 tent in isolation centre of Dipayal Silgadi municipality ward number 6. ➤ Provided 5 tarpaulin in isolation centre of Dipayal Silgadi municipality ward number 7.
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Note: Updates collected from 5W table

Picture of the day:



Children participating in orientation on hygiene promotion, proper use of mask at Taiwan Basti conducted by Youth Circle Sarlahi, Hariwan Subchapter (Photo: NRCS Sarlahi)

References

For further updates,

WHO sitrep: <https://covid19.who.int/table>

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