

COVID-19

Preparedness and Response Operation

1 February-30 June 2020

Update # 3 Issue date: 30 June 2020



NRCS volunteer engaged in IEC materials distribution related to COVID-19 in Kaski district
Photo: NRCS Kaski

BACKGROUND

Since last update on 15 June 2020, the number of people infected with COVID-19 has increased double in Nepal. Because of the increase of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and **rapid diagnostic test (RDT)** coverage, the positive cases are being identified whereas, the discharge cases are also increased by three times comparative to previous update (*Source: Ministry of Health and Population, SitRep #127 and #142*).

In South Asian Region, India has the highest number of infections followed by Pakistan. The total confirmed cases is 5,66,840 and death rate is increasing in India. (*Source: WHO SitRep 162*).

Nepal government has announced an easing to the nationwide lockdown. The government offices and other national/international organizations are functional on shift modality, restaurants are opened for takeout orders, movement of private vehicles are permitted on even/odd basis matching Nepali calendar date and other basic services such as hospitals and banks are opened. However, COVID-19 hotspots have been sealed off and inter district movements are still strictly prohibited. Similarly, the people who were stranded outside Nepal except India are supported for returning back and managed in holding centres.

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has been involving 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.

Situation Overview (as of 30 June 2020)

	Nepal	Global
Confirmed Cases	13,564	10,021,401
# of patients recovered	3194	4,000,000
# of people died	29	499,913
# of people in quarantine	53,070	
# of people in isolation	10,341	
#of Countries Affected		216

Source: MOHP situation report

MOHP website; <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>

VOICE

"We were hopeless of meeting our son who was out of contact for more than 3 decades, but NRCS made it possible which was almost impossible of us. We knew that Red Cross always supported flood affected people, distributed relief items but had never imagined bringing our son, Gopal Nepali. Thank you Red Cross for reuniting us."

- A Mother of Gopal Nepali, Necha Salyan of Solukhumbu district

SECTORAL PROGRESS

77 districts reached



1,285,849

People reached including
688,593 people reached
through IEC materials



1,675

Volunteers
mobilized

Health and Care

Major progress

Services

- **247** ambulances mobilized across the country
- **1,485** people received psychosocial first aid
- **113** blood transfusion service centre/emergency unit functional across the country.

Materials distribution

- **283,288** personal protective items (masks, gloves, hazmat suit) distributed across the country
- **15,000** surgical mask, **1,100** KN-95 mask, **550** cover all with hood, **300** safety goggles, **20,000** pairs of gloves, **440** pairs of boots, **2,500** bottles of sanitizer, disinfectants (Sodium Hypochlorite) **2,200** litres, and **15,118** soaps handed over to Ministry of Health and Population.

These items will be dispatched in two phase to eight COVID-19 treatment facilities throughout the countries. This includes Sukraraj Tropical & Infectious Diseases Hospital MOHP, Koshi Zonal Hospital, Narayani Sub-Regional Hospital, Bharatpur Hospital, Pokhara Health Science Academy Hospital, Bheri Zonal Hospital, Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Seti Zonal Hospital.

Training and orientations

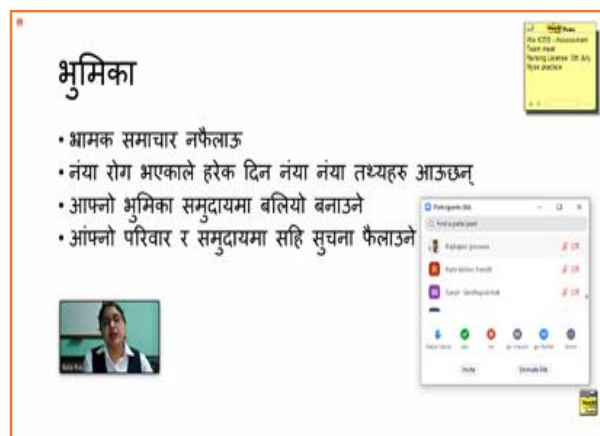
- **210,271** people reached through COVID-19 orientation sessions (community orientation, school orientation, door to door visit, help desk, miking) on COVID-19 preventions and control measures
- **235** trained on online Psychosocial First Aid
- **171** NRCS ambulance drivers, blood bank services and other staffs and volunteers in Frontline trained in IPC.

Guidelines developed

- COVID-19 response guideline
- Infection, prevention and control guideline

Target group

- People infected by COVID-19, their families, and the communities they are living in.
- Frontline health responders
- Vulnerable groups such as elderly people, children, pregnant women, people with disability (PWD)
- Migrant returnees/labourers/workers
- School children,
- People in holding areas, quarantine centres
- People in prisons
- Public in general
- Red Cross volunteers and staff



Two-day virtual training was organized on Infection Prevention and Control Measures (IPC) by NRCS in coordination with Nursing Social Security Division (NSSD) and MoHP with an objective to orient on Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE), its use, and IPC, hygiene promotion session along with Risk Communication and Community Engagement and Accountability (RC-CEA). A total of 171 participants (Ambulance driver, blood service providers, volunteers and staff) from 77 district chapters had participated in the training.

Photo: NRCS HQs

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

Major progress

Services

- 307 hand washing stations established in public places and quarantine sites
- 90181 people returning from India were aided with drinking water at border sites.

Materials distribution

- 631 hygiene kits distributed
- 27518 bars of soap distributed
- 4725 buckets with jugs distributed
- 2954 bottles of sanitizers (100-500 ml each) distributed

Training and orientations

- 7060 people reached through hygiene promotion activities (hand washing demonstration sessions and practical session)

Other actions

- Supported in disinfection of road and vehicles in different districts
- 10 emergency toilet constructed in different quarantine sites.
- Emergency toilet and bath room constructed at central ambulance washing centre in Kathmandu.



Contactless hand washing station established at Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu

Photo: NRCS Kathmandu

Risk Communication and CEA



NRCS is continuously and enormously spreading awareness messages regarding #Spread Love through virtual means.

Photo: NRCS website

Major progress

- 688,593 IEC materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banner with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed
- 503 calls related to COVID-19 were received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130
- 129 episodes of Red Cross radio programme was aired through different FM stations across the country.
- 401 COVID-19 related posts shared in NRCS Facebook site that was viewed 4,656,888 times and earned 315,942 reactions.
- 275 people reached through orientation on Cyberbullying
- 119 tweets posted related to COVID-19 and earned 178,600 impressions
- COVID-19 related rumour tracked through social media and media scanning in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF
- NRCS social media volunteering page developed and 1,400 youths are members in the page.

Protection Gender and Inclusion

Major progress

Services

- **44** district involved in different activities related to Restoring Family Link (RFL) services; NRCS volunteer contacted **508** people arrived from India/other countries
- **77** people supported in family contact
- **4** persons supported for their reunification with their family.
- **18** street children supported with emergency shelter
- **47** chronic patient of cancer, kidney disease and diabetics received medicine from Red Cross

Materials distribution

- **17,933** people including daily wage workers, street children and passengers supported with food in coordination with local authority.
- **350** families supported with Combo kit in in Bhulke village of Udayapur district
- **1071** dignity Kit distributed in the quarantine site
- **209** Kishori Kit distributed in quarantine site
- **389** dead body bags supported to security forces, district disaster management committee, and hospitals

Training and orientation

- **124** staff/volunteers oriented on PGI

Guidelines developed

- Rapid guidance for providing RFL service during COVID-19
- Family support combo kit management guideline

Other support

- People supported with transportation facility to return to their house in different districts
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) referral



NRCS arranged wheelchair for Sita Bhujel for travelling from Rupendehi to Kailali district. She is a 16- year orphan girl, whose lower body was paralyzed. She used to work in India and managed to come to Belahiya border, Rupandehi during lockdown.

Photo: NRCS Rupandehi



Holding Centres observation by representatives of NRCS, IFRC and British Red Cross in Radhaswami Santsang Centre, Samakhushi and Yeti Party Palace, Basundhara

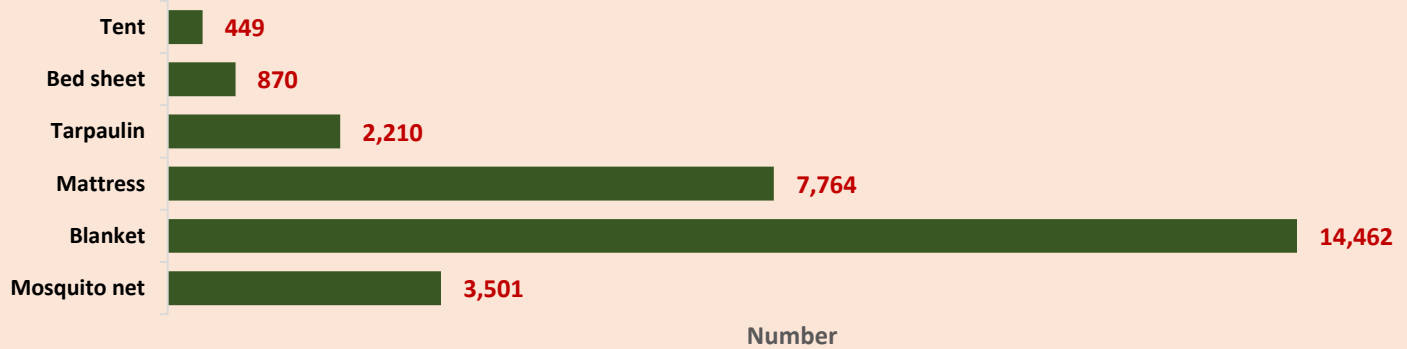
Photo: NRCS Facebook

Shelter

Key Actions

- Supported in quarantine site management including district jails as per necessity
- Supported shelter and non-food relief items to quarantine sites, isolation sites and households in COVID-19 affected area.

Shelter and Non-food relief items distribution



GOOD PRACTICES AND INNOVATION

- Monsoon preparedness and COVID-19 preparedness and response are being conducted in a parallel way.
- Contactless hand washing station established at different places to minimize the potential risk of COVID-19 spread.
- Despite of high risk of exposure to COVID-19, NRCS volunteers and staff have actively been involving in providing services at community, quarantine site, and point of entry including border sites. The volunteers and staff have been oriented on safety measures prior to their deployment.
- Use of NRCS e-learning platform for conducting different types of training such as 5W reporting training
- Cyber bullying, being an emerging public health concern, NRCS has initiated online cyber bullying campaign through series of orientations to people at all level.



NRCS staff and volunteers involved in door to door hand washing campaign in Myagdi district

Photo: NRCS Myagdi

COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

- All Red Cross actions related to COVID-19 are in line with Government of Nepal MOHP, HEOC guideline and initiatives.
- NRCS province offices, district chapters and sub-chapters have remained in close contact with the local authorities and supporting in their plan for quarantine and isolation sites assessment, establishment and management as well surveillance and contact tracing.
- Participation in district disaster management committee meeting in all districts for monsoon as well as COVID-19 preparedness and response.
- Participation in health, WASH, PGI and shelter cluster meetings and other meetings such as media interaction programme.



NRCS with financial support of Coca-Cola Foundation has procured essential personnel protective equipment and infection prevention and control items.

These items are being distributed to Government COVID-19 treatment facilities, NRCS ambulance drivers, blood transfusion services centers and other staff and volunteers who have been working as first line responders. Use of personal protective items are important for the firstline responders to minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Photo credit: NRCS

OUR PARTNERS FOR COVID-19

RCRC Movement: ICRC and IFRC including Participating National Societies

UN agencies: UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO

Private Sectors: Coca-Cola Company, local industries and traders

Philanthropists: Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association, individual donors

Government agencies at federal, provincial and local levels

CHALLENGES

- Prediction of compounding effect of COVID-19 and floods/landslides due to monsoon has been difficult.
- SGBV cases are increasing during lockdown but response mechanism seems limited.

Note: Sources of this report are NRCS, WHO and MOHP HEOC daily situation updates and contains consolidated achievement of the NRCS at all levels based on the information provided by the district chapters and departments.

For Detail information

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