

COVID-19

Preparedness and Response Operation

1 February-15 July 2020

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Kapil Dev Thakur, NRCS ambulance driver has served more than 300 COVID-19 infected patients by transferring them to hospitals or isolation sites.
Photo: NRCS Dhanusha

BACKGROUND

As of 15 July 2020, all seven provinces and 77 districts have reported at least one case of COVID-19 infection. In four districts (Bhojpur, Humla, Manag and Mustang), all the COVID-19 infected people have already recovered. Government of Nepal has established 26 testing facilities throughout the nation latest being the Seti Provincial Hospital Avian Disease Investigation Lab, Dhangadi.

In terms of people testing positive, on 3 July 2020, a total of 774 people were tested positive in a single day. It was the highest recorded positive case detected in a single day in Nepal. On the contrary, in the same day 823 people were recovered. Since then, the number of people with confirmed case is gradually decreasing along with the gradual increase in the number of people being recovered. Despite, Nepal is still among the top four nation in South East Asia with more than 17,500 people infected with COVID-19 infection. India tops the chart with more than 1.1 million infection followed by Bangladesh and Indonesia (Source: WHO global dashboard as of 15 July 2020)

Nepal Government has ease down the nation-wide lockdown from 15 June 2020. Now, the offices are operating in two shifts for which Government has suggested to put in place the precautionary measures of wearing mask, maintaining physical distance etc.

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.

Situation Overview (as of 15 July 2020)

	Nepal	Global
Confirmed Cases	17,177	12,964,809
# of patients recovered	11,025	
# of people died	39	570,288
# of people in quarantine	24,527	
# of people in isolation	6,113	
#of Countries Affected		216

Source: MOHP situation report

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

VOICE

“Where there is difficulty, there is Red Cross”. This slogan comes true to me, as I was struggling for shelter and food during the lockdown. Though I couldn't be with my family in this situation, I am happy to be here under the shelter provided by Nepal Red Cross Society.

– Ram Kumar Gurung, 45
Resident of Parbat

SECTORAL PROGRESS

77 districts reached



1,299,960

People reached including
696,474 people reached
through IEC materials



1,933

Volunteers
mobilized

Health and Care

Major progress

Services

- **247** ambulances mobilized across the country
- **1,734** people received psychosocial first aid service
- **113** blood transfusion service centre/emergency unit functional across the country

Materials distribution

- **295,386** personal protective items (masks, gloves, hazmat suit) distributed across the country
- **212,526** people reached through COVID-19 awareness session, community orientation, door to door visit and help desks
- **97 pcs** of N95 Mask, **80 pairs** of protective boots, **570 pcs** of Hand Sanitizer, **65 jars** of Chlorine Disinfectant and **13,248 pcs** of Soap to NRCS Central Blood Transfusion Service, NRCS Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Kathmandu and Kavrepalanchowk District Chapter

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
- **313** 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



1



2

1: NRCS volunteer is providing psychological first aid service to a woman at the quarantine centre in Kaski district. (Photo: NRCS Kaski)

2: NRCS staff 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)

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

Major progress

Services

- 332 hand washing stations established in public places and quarantine sites
- 109,848 people returning from India were aided with drinking water at border sites.

Materials distribution

- 653 hygiene kits distributed
- 32,700 bars of soap distributed
- 4,942 buckets with jugs distributed
- 4,083 bottles of sanitizers (100-500 ml each) distributed

Training and orientations

- 7,125 people reached through hygiene promotion activities (hand washing demonstration sessions and practical session)

Other actions

- 45 emergency toilets constructed in different quarantine sites
- Supported in disinfection of public places including the cultural heritage sites, schools, quarantine and holding areas, port of entry, road and vehicles in different districts



1



2

1: The woman is washing hands in the premise of one of the rural municipality office in Nuwakot district. (Photo: NRCS Nuwakot)

2: Use of contactless hand washing taps in NRCS Headquarters. (Photo: NRCS)

Risk Communication and CEA

<p>बालबालिकाको विशेष ख्याल गरौं ।</p> <p>आफन्तसँग कुरा गर्दा वा अनलाइन च्याट गर्दा सकारात्मक कुरा गरौं ।</p>	<p>बालबालिकाको विशेष ख्याल गरौं ।</p> <p>परिवारका सबै सदस्य मिलेर भान्छा तथा करेसावारीको काम गरौं ।</p>
<p>बालबालिकाको विशेष ख्याल गरौं ।</p> <p>सुत्नुअघि नैतिक, पौराणिक, धार्मिक तथा राष्ट्रियता झल्कने खालका कथाहरु सुनाऔं ।</p>	<p>बालबालिकाको विशेष ख्याल गरौं ।</p> <p>बालबालिकासँगै बसेर दैनिक समय तलिका बनाऔं । पढ्ने, लेख्ने, खेल्ने, मनोरञ्जन गर्ने र सुत्ने समय निर्धारण गरौं ।</p>

NRCS is continuously spreading awareness messages regarding child protection.

Photo: NRCS

Major progress

- 696,474 IEC materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banner with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed
- 538 calls related to COVID-19 were received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130
- 131 episodes of Red Cross radio programme was aired through different FM stations across the country
- 447 COVID-19 related posts shared in NRCS Facebook site that was viewed 4,938,049 million times
- 275 people reached through orientation on Cyberbullying
- 129 tweets posted related to COVID-19 and earned 18,900 impressions. Total followers in the page have reached to 1780
- NRCS social media volunteering page developed and 1,400 youths are members in the page. NRCS volunteer's activities and awareness messages related to COVID-19 have been spreading through this group.

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
- **214** Kishori Kit distributed in quarantine site
- **389** dead body bags supported to security forces, district disaster management committee, and hospitals

Training and orientation

- **63** staff/volunteers oriented on PGI
- **52** staffs/volunteers orientated on PGI through online

Guidelines developed

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



NRCS volunteer, one of Champion from SURE Program providing awareness messages to the community people. (Photo: NRCS Kaski)

Other support on PGI

- People supported with transportation facility to return to their house in different districts
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) referral message airing/broadcasting through radio and television

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
- The existing evacuation sites constructed by NRCS with support of the local government have been used as a quarantine sites in Dang and Udayapur districts



NRCS supported set-up materials, fencing and food items: rice, lentil and vegetable to set up 20 bed-quarantine site at Saraswati School in Diktel, Khotang and handed over it to local municipality. (Photo: NRCS Khotang)

Shelter and non-food relief items distribution

Blanket	14672
Mattress	7850
Mosquito	3546
Tarpaulin	2260
Bed Sheet	870
Tent	449

GOOD PRACTICES

- Despite of high risk of exposure to COVID-19, NRCS volunteers and staff have actively been providing services at community, quarantine site, and point of entry including border sites
- District chapters have initiated preparing COVID-19 Preparedness and Response operation report in 5W template after receiving virtual training through NRCS e-learning platform
- COVID-19 preparedness and response along with monsoon response are being reported separately in daily basis
- Contactless hand washing station established at different places to minimize the potential risk of COVID-19 spread
- Safety and security of staff and volunteers have been considered in the office operation modality in NRCS



NRCS volunteers are pasting the pamphlets with COVID-19 awareness message in the premises of Kathmandu Metropolitan Ward No. 8 Office. (Photo: Sujan Khatiwada, NRCS Kathmandu)

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 are supporting quarantine and isolation sites management including assessment, 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 has maintained bilateral collaboration with Coco Cola and UNICEF for COVID-19 Preparedness and Response.



NRCS under collaboration with the Coca Cola Foundation has procured essential Personnel Protective Equipment and Infection Prevention and Control items. The items were distributed to NRCS Central Blood Transfusion Service, NRCS Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Kathmandu and Kavrepalanchowk District Chapter.

Photo: 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

- Potential risk of infection from volunteers during door to door visit has limited the COVID-19 awareness activities.
- Prediction of compounding effect of COVID-19 and floods/landslides due to monsoon has been difficult.

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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