

COVID-19

Preparedness and Response Operation

1 February-31 July 2020

Update # 5 Issue date: 31 July 2020



Hygiene kit distribution in the quarantine site of Nepalgunj, Banke district.

BACKGROUND

On 31 July 2020, out of 77 districts of seven provinces, Bhojpur, Sankhuwashaba, Kavre, Rasuwa, Mustang and Manang have reported no new cases of COVID-19 infection along with all the infected being recovered. As part of widening the scope of testing, Nepal Government has established testing facilities in 29 stations throughout the nation. On the same day, 10,768 reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests were conducted out of which 224 have tested positive. A short dip in the infection curve was observed in the first three weeks of July after which the cases are rising. The number of cases in various areas are on the rise highlighting the possibility of community spread of the infection.

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. Due to which, the Government has imposed various measures such as restriction on the vehicular movement in Kathmandu valley at night (7pm to 7am) and the odd even system based upon the date and vehicle number plate has been re-impose in Kathmandu valley districts as precautionary measures to limit the movement of people increased after the lifting of the nation-wide lockdown in June 2020.

Nepal is fifth among the eight South-Asian countries with 19,771 cases of infection. India tops the chart with more than 1.9 million infection followed by Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan (Source: WHO COVID-19 situation report- 193 of 31 July 2020)

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 31 July 2020)

	Nepal	Global
Confirmed Cases	19,771	16,812,755
# of patients recovered	14,399	
# of people died	56	662,095
# of people in quarantine	12,111	
# of people in isolation	5,316	
#of Countries Affected		216

Source: MOHP situation report

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

VOICE

Champion Enrolls as Front-liners for COVID-19 Response

"I am indebted to Nepal Red Cross Society for providing me skills, confidence, and companionship for supporting others. I am very happy that little effort from our side has helped to ease the livelihood of most vulnerable people of our community during this pandemic situation.

– Rupa KC, 34
Champion Landless Group, SURE Kaski

SECTORAL PROGRESS

77 districts reached



1,316,621

People reached including
696,814 people reached
through IEC materials



1,943

Volunteers
mobilized

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

Health and Care

Major progress

Services

- **247** ambulances mobilized across the county
- **1,825** people received psychosocial first aid service
- **113** blood transfusion service centre/emergency unit functional across the country

Materials distribution

- **304,308** personal protective items (masks, gloves, hazmat suit) distributed across the country
- **216,622** people reached through COVID-19 awareness session, community orientation, door to door visit and help desks

Training and orientations

- **356** trained online on psychosocial first aid **197** NRCS ambulance drivers, blood bank services and other staffs and volunteers trained/oriented on infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines developed
- COVID-19 response guideline
- Infection, prevention and control guideline



Briefing on proper use of personnel protective equipment to NRCS staff during IPC training.

Photo: NRCS



NRCS volunteer providing information on COVID-19 through help desk set up at various points along with temperature check-up of community people (*Photo: NRCS Bhaktapur*)

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

Major progress

Services

- 766 hand washing stations established in public places and quarantine sites
- 111,528 people returning from India were aided with drinking water at border site

Materials distribution

- 34,530 bars of soap distributed
- 4,640 buckets with jugs distributed
- 4,083 bottles of sanitizers (100-500 ml each) distributed

Training and orientations

- 8,262 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



NRCS volunteer conducting handwashing demonstration sessions in the quarantines center of Dang (Photo: NRCS Dang)



Contactless hand washing station and temporary bathroom installed by district chapter at holding centre of Brittamod entry point in collaboration with UNICEF (Photo: NRCS Mahottari)

Risk Communication and CEA



NRCS volunteers sensitizing community members on importance of using mask along with mask distribution in Saptari district (Photo: NRCS Saptari)

Major progress

- 696,814 IEC materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banner with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed
- 592 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
- 488 COVID-19 related posts shared in NRCS Facebook site that was viewed 5 million times.
- 275 people reached through orientation on Cyberbullying
- 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 page.

Protection Gender and Inclusion

Major progress

Services

- **44** district involved in different activities related to restoring family link 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 who were coming back to Nepal from India via land, supported with meal and other ready to eat food such as biscuits and noodles in coordination with local authority.
- **350** families supported with Combo kit in in Bhulke village of Udayapur district
- **1,081** dignity Kit distributed in the quarantine site
- **214** Kishori Kit distributed in quarantine site
- **394 dead** body bags supported to security forces, district disaster management committee, and hospitals

Training and orientation

- **115** staff/volunteers oriented on protection gender and inclusion (PGI)
- **20** volunteers trained on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)
- **70** staff/volunteers oriented on SGBV programme concept and implementation strategy

Guidelines developed

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

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.
- Monsoon preparedness and COVID-19 response activities are going in a parallel way.



Children and youths participating in hygiene promotion conducted by Youth Circle Sarlahi, Hariwan Subchapter at Taiwan Basti, Sarlahi (Photo: NRCS Sarlahi)

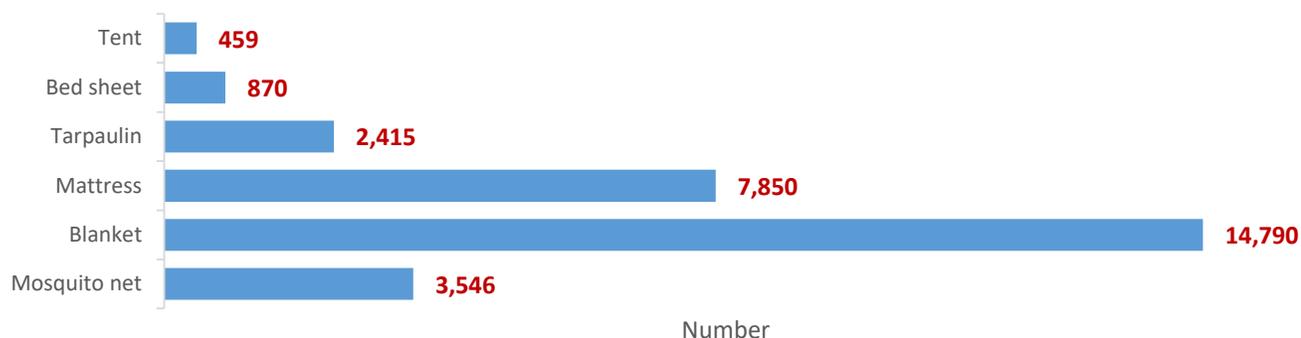
Other support related to PGI

- People supported with transportation facility to return to their house in different districts
- SGBV referral message airing/broadcasting through radio and television



NRCS in coordination with Nepal Army supported in management and set-up of 20 bed-quarantine along with some food items, in Saraswati School, Diktel (Photo: NRCS Khotang)

Shelter and Non-food relief items distribution



GOOD PRACTICES AND INNOVATION

- Despite of their high engagement in floods and landslides response, NRCS volunteers and staff have actively been providing services people at risk of COVID-19 in community, quarantine site, and point of entry including border sites.
- District chapters have been sharing their report on 5W format following their participation in 5W reporting virtual training organized by NRCS headquarters through e-learning platform.
- Unit action team has been formed in districts which is led by locally nominated dependable team leader with a major task to support ward disaster management committee, beyond COVID-19.
- Contactless hand washing station established at different places to minimize the potential risk of COVID-19 spread.



Social mobilizer preparing for disseminating COVID-19 and, floods and landslides awareness message through community meetings and household visit in Baitadi district
(Photo: NRCS Baitadi)

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.



Orientation to Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMC) and other stakeholders in Mugu Chhayanath Rara Municipality-3 Tami to set up Unit Action team in the community (Photo: NRCS Mugu)

(Unit Action Team is a cluster of people 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 WDMC, they will be activated in all disasters beyond COVID-19. With the support of UNICEF, Nepal Red Cross Society is forming the Unit Action Team in 50 palikas of 28 districts. Mainly Unit Action Team will support 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.)

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

CHALLENGE

- People, displaced due to flood and landslide, residing together in temporary shelters has increased risk spread of COVID-19 spread in the community.

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 received from the district chapters and

For detail information

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