

# COVID-19

## Preparedness and Response Operation

1 February-15 August 2020

Update # 6 Issue date: 15 August 2020



Children attending the practical session of PSS session conducted by NRCS Thaiba subchapter, Lalitpur (Photo: NRCS Thaiba Subchapter)

### BACKGROUND

On 15 August 2020, out of 77 districts of seven provinces, Dolpa, Humla, Manang, Mustang and Sankhuwashaba 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 39 stations throughout the nation. On the same day, 11,047 reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests were conducted out of which 468 have tested positive.

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 2.5 million infection followed by Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan (*WHO COVID-19 situation report- 208 of 15 August 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 (NFI), 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 August 2020)

	Nepal	Global
Confirmed Cases	25,551	20,439,814
# of patients recovered	17,077	
# of people died	99	744,385
# of people in quarantine	14,638	
# of people in isolation	7,923	
#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

"Red Cross has managed to join my family's hand-and-mouth during this COVID-19 pandemic. I used to work on daily wages. When lock-down started, I could not get any work. NRCS supported me with a sewing machine and I have started sewing face masks. Now I can also help the people. This is providing me a good earning enough to feed my four-member family as well".

Mina Chhinnotola, Single woman  
Bhaktapur Municipality-2,  
Community volunteer

# SECTORAL PROGRESS

**77 districts reached**



**1,342,443**

People reached including  
**696,842** people reached  
through IEC materials



**1,952**

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 country
- **2,078 people** received psychosocial first aid service
- **113** blood transfusion service centre/emergency unit functional across the country.

#### Materials distribution

- **328,648** personal protective items (masks, gloves, hazmat suit) distributed across the country
- **216,724** people reached through COVID-19 awareness session, community orientation, door to door visit, help desk etc.

#### Training and orientations

- **356** trained on online Psychosocial First Aid
- **171** NRCS ambulance drivers, blood bank services and other staffs and volunteers in Frontline trained in IPC
- **26** NRCS employee oriented in IPC

#### Guidelines developed

- COVID-19 response guideline
- Infection, prevention and control (IPC) guideline



NRCS volunteer involved in disinfection of public areas in Pokhara Metropolitan City (Photo: NRCS Kaski)



NRCS volunteer providing information on COVID-19 through door to door visit along with mask distribution (Photo: NRCS Lalitpur)



## Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

### Major progress

#### Services

- **766** hand washing stations established in public places and quarantine sites
- **114,708** people returning from India were aided with drinking water at border site

#### Materials distribution

- **568** hygiene kits distributed
- **35,501** bars of soap distributed
- **4,648** buckets with jugs distributed
- **4,083** bottles of sanitizers (100-500 ml each) distributed

#### Training and orientations

- **8,561** 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



Children attending hand washing demonstration session conducted in Lalitpur (Photo: NRCS Thaiba Subchapter)

## Risk Communication and CEA



NRCS Parsa has flex in local language and displayed in key public places such as medical shops and other places to promote awareness against the COVID-19 infection (Photo: Parsa District Capter)

### Major progress

- **696,842** IEC materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banner with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed
- **663** 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 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 who were coming back to Nepal from India via land, supported with meal and other ready to eat food like biscuits, noodles etc in coordination with local authority.
- **350 families** supported with Combo kit in in Bhulke village of Udayapur district and Syangja, Gandaki
- **1,081** dignity Kit distributed in the quarantine site
- **214** Kishore Kit distributed in quarantine site
- **389** dead body bags supported to security forces, district disaster management committee, and hospitals

#### Training and orientation

- **115** staff/volunteers oriented on PGI
- **20** volunteers trained on SGBV
- **70** staffs/volunteers oriented on SGBV program concept & implementation strategy

#### Guidelines developed

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



Distribution of dignity kits to women residing in quarantine site of Kalikot, after the awareness raising session on COVID-19 and WASH, which was held in support of Community Empowerment for Health Promotion Program **(Photo: NRCS Kalikot)**

#### Other support related to 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, non-food relief and food 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.

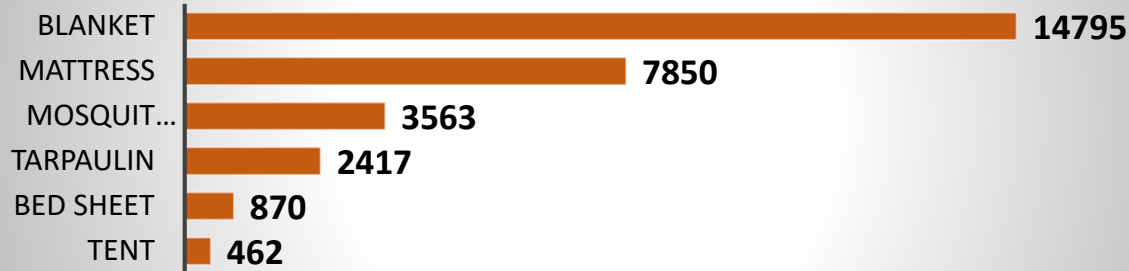


Food distribution to the affected families in Khotang district

**(Photo: NRCS Khotang)**

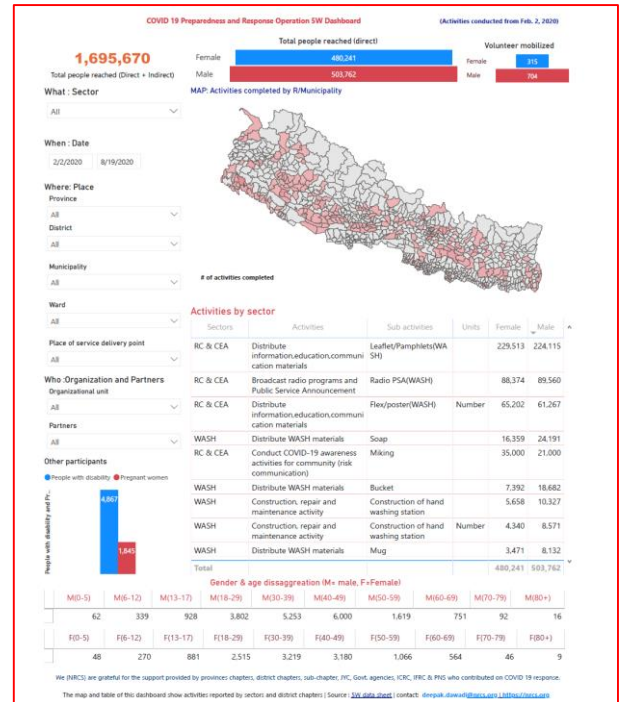


## Shelter and Non-Food Relief item distribution



## GOOD PRACTICES AND INNOVATION

- Mobilization champions for supporting the people at risk of COVID-19 in community has been effective in strengthening urban resilience programme in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Kaski and Kailali districts.
- Use of web/mobile based tools for planning, reporting and information management of COVID-19 preparedness and response operation.



NRCS is introducing interactive dash board of COVID-19 preparedness and response operation

## 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.



“Where is your mask?” awareness campaign conducted by NRCS Khotang with concern local stakeholder to sensitize community on importance of wearing mask (*Photo: NRCS Khotang*)

In joint effort of District Administration Office, District Police Office, Diktal Rupakot Majuwagadhi Municipality and Chamber of Commerce and Industry, NRCS Khotang district chapter launched "Where is your mask campaign?" in Diktal, the district headquarters of Khotang. The campaign started from 5th August 2020 to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and spread public awareness message. Campaign has been launched urging citizens to wear masks.

## 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 COVID-19 to volunteers during door to door visit has limited the COVID-19 awareness activities.
- Chances of double counting as the activities are similar for monsoon and COVID-19 response.

**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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