

WASH NEWSLETTER



July: August 2020

COVID-19 and Monsoon Preparedness and Response Operation

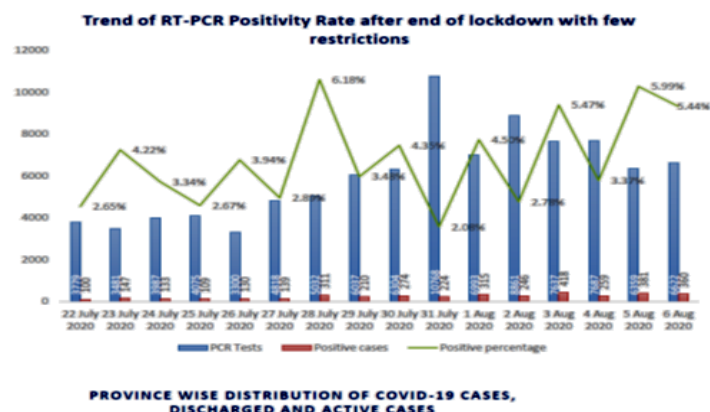
✦ Background

In initial of 2020, Nepal has transmitted COVID-19 in February 2020 from Nepalese student who travelled back home from Wuhan, China. Then it had gradually increased. Until last July, most of cases identified were among the people who came from India and abroad. Due to overwhelming influx of people in 20 Port of Entries (PoEs) throughout the nation sharing open boarder with India, near about 0.6 million Nepalese returned home. Few stayed in holding centres for certain days whereas most of them directly went home. It also intensified the cases in districts.

Nepal Government declared a complete lockdown since end of March. During the lockdown, the cases of COVID-19 was limited with slow increase and a trend of decrease after a certain point. However, after releasing the lockdown, the number of cases has been increasing as if like Nepal has entered the 2nd wave in the pandemic. But expert says; "Nepal is doing test under target/day so that we can't see full pictures of COVID-19". The government data reflects the increased death toll since last month and is rapidly increasing. Community people are scared with the rise in cases including the death toll which depicts the start of community transmission.



Flood and Landslide at Barhabise in Sindhupalchowk



In this pandemic situation, Nepal was hit hard by other disasters as well. Since June 2020, heavy monsoon had hit Nepal. Rapid increase in flood and landslides has resulted more than 363 landslides in different parts of country specially in mountain areas and more than 10 flooding incidents in 8 terai districts. As a result, more than 192 deaths and 21,452 families have been affected. As Nepal is under multiple parallel disaster, it needs to consider safety and security measures against COVID-19 while responding to the flood and landslide. Disinfection of camp and houses is one of the major WASH intervention that NRCS has to include in its plan so as to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in flood and landslide affected areas. Dissemination of hygiene promotion activities such as physical distancing and hand washing should be integrated with risk communication during the response in current disasters. NRCS through its 77 district chapters is relentlessly serving the mandate of Government of Nepal.

✦ Monsoon Updates

Since July 2020, due to heavy rainfall and landslide in different part of country, more than 192 deaths, 71 missing and 120 injured has been reported by Disaster Management Department, NRCS till 17 August 2020. It has also displaced more than 8,087 households and directly affected more than 20,440 households. Nepal Metrological Department predicts time which may lead to come.

The affected community need of life saving items for emergency water, hygiene items. The numbers of affected families have been increasing day-by-day and is likely to be challenging to engage in rescue through its district chapters.



Landslide at Barekot-4, Jajarkot

Throughout the nation, NRCS has been responding to the landslides and flood in affected areas following the safety and security measures against COVID-19.

As per plan, NRCS is prepared and is responding affected people through its pre-stock materials and is in position for cleaning the affected hand pumps and water sources, construction of emergency toilets, water treatment and WASH relief items including shelter NFRIs.

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Statistical Situation:

Summary as of 17 August, 2020

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Dead | 192 |
| Missing | 71 |
| Injured | 120 |
| Displaced Families | 8556 |
| Affected Families | 21452 |

Houses Destroyed

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Fully | 4272 |
| Partially | 6627 |

NFRIs distributed

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| NFRIs full set | 999 |
| Tarpaulin | 3805 |
| Blanket | 909 |
| Utensil | 280 |
| Number of Volunteer mobilized | 102 |

WASH items distributed

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Hygiene kit | 1066 |
| Emergency toilets set | 14 |
| Aqua tab | 1000 |
| Soap | 1950 |

✖ Highlight Stories

Change in Hygiene Behavior Amid COVID-19

Sujan Pariyar (31) resident of Pokhara Metropolitan City is very happy to see most of the people of his community to be well informed about the appropriate steps of hand washing, using a mask, gloves, and sanitizers. People practice hygienic behaviors and also motivates their guests to wash hands properly with soap and water before entering their home. Previously, community used to wash their hands with water only, but now they not only use soap but also does follow the procedure.



Sujan Pariyar demonstrating hand washing technique

Involvement of Sujan in NRCS program has developed the confidence to uplift the personal behavior. In his opinion, apart from various risks and challenges, the occurrence of COVID-19 has been a turning point for his community to adapt hand washing practice frequently.

During this lockdown, Red Cross volunteers are vigorously involved in different campaigns with disseminating IEC materials and information on proper hand washing steps, use of masks, gloves, and sanitizers.

'I extend my heartfelt thanks to Red Cross for being actively engaged for a humanitarian response even in this difficult situation and provided equal opportunities to put our skill in practice', Sujan says.

Initiation for landless people during COVID -19

NRCS has been implementing 'Strengthening Urban Resilience and Engagement (SURE) programme' in seven municipalities from Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Kaski and Kailali districts since 2016. The programme has been engaging landless people through different programme activities. Landless people are at the risk of fire because of shack settlements and unmanaged electrical lines. Besides, community of landless peoples were facing challenges such as lack of water supplies for firefighting and under-supply of drinking water from the very beginning. With the objective to cope with fire-induced disasters and drinking water problem, NRCS supported in installation of two water tanks each with capacity of 5,000 liters at Sangam tole, Kathmandu Metropolitan City ward no. 26. More than hundred households have been benefited through the water tanks.

Since the beginning pandemic, Red Cross been disseminating awareness the community. In project installed one station near to the tank, while visitors community, they are wash their hands. have been monitoring ter tank and hand tion. They have nating information portance of physi- during fetching water and using hand washing station to the users. Also, they monitor availability of soap at hand washing stations. The community members are always encouraged to attain awareness sessions on disaster preparedness and response through champions.



Drinking Water fetching point with hand washing station, KMC-26

of COVID-19 volunteers have COVID-19 re-messages in addition, SURE hand washing drinking water entering to the requested to Four champions the use of wa-washing sta-been dissemi-about im-cal distance

"After installation of hand washing station, we are feeling somewhat safe from corona virus. We come to water tank station for fetching drinking water for our house. This hand washing station build the confidence level because we wash our hand first and fill the drinking water in jar. Similarly, we have learnt the hand washing steps through champions and now we have developed the hand washing habit. Sometimes our children also come along with us for getting the water and they also have learnt about hand washing skills and they wash their hand regularly. Thanks to Nepal Red Cross for this great work and making us realize the importance of hand washing." says Gopal Lama, user.

✖ Beneficiary Voice

Local Voice

We thought the entire hill is going to slide down and sweep away the village but it is quite amazing to see the idea of Nepal Red Cross who came up with the joint ef-



Tarpaulin laid to stop the landslide

forts of NRCS volunteers and Nepal Army to stop the village from being taken away by landslide. They managed to fix the tarpaulin from top of the hill from where the landslide started all the way down to the house which was most affected. It eased to pass the water and there was very less possibility for further landslides.

-Local, Rajkumar Thapa, Gorkha

Government Voice

A new pandemic which the world was unaware about had hit the nation, but Narainpur Rural Municipality has been tackling with this situation collectively with support of NRCS, UNICEF, Nepal army, armed police force (APF) and different organizations. Different agencies are working in port of entry as well as in quarantine sites so as to reduce the



Ward president addressing stakeholders meeting

effect of pandemic in the community. NRCS is vigorously working in awareness session which has led to increase of knowledge on frequent hand washing, physical distancing as well as safe sanitation and hygiene behaviors. Even children these days have learnt the behavior and are transferring their skills and knowledge to their parents.

*-Raj Kumar Mahato
Ward President*

Ward no.-3, Narainapur RM, Banke

✱ Nepal Red Cross Society in Action



Relief distribution in Sindhupalchowk



UNICEF and NRCS joint monitoring at PoE, Banke, Nepalganj



Hygiene kit distribution in quarantine, Nepalgunj, Banke



Differnet organization providing joint services in Point of Entry, Banke



Contactless handwashing station and bathing space for male in Birtamode PoE, Mahottari



Hygiene Promotion session for COVID-19, Salyan

✱ Training Package (Risk Communication dos and don'ts)

Nepal is one of the countries where very first corona virus (COVID-19) case was found much later and had a sufficient time for risk minimization. On January 13, Government of Nepal (GoN) confirmed the 1st case of COVID-19 and the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) sensing the possibility of communal outbreak and its serious implications, GoN declared a complete lockdown on 24 March 2020 which is in solidarity with the WHO declaration of public health emergency of international concern. However, series of measures should be taken into consideration as this crisis may go beyond the capacity of our country.

International solidarity is required to ensure that the country is fully prepared to face the pandemic and address its impact in all sectors. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) being a pioneer in WASH interventions in Nepal, has prepared a one-day orientation package of "WASH Risk Communication" with target participants ranging from staffs, volunteers to community people. This package has been prepared on the basis of guidelines from GoN and WHO that is based on the trends and developments of the global COVID-19 pandemic risk minimization. This orientation package is aimed to produce trained human resource which will be capable to disseminate the knowledge on risk minimization.

A risk minimization practice on COVID-19 is mainly based on dos and don'ts of the basic hygiene practices for all people. COVID-19 transmission can be minimized by following certain practices like physical distancing, coughing hygiene, nutritious diet intake, remaining in self-quarantine/quarantine, isolation and practising safe hygiene and sanitation practice during field mobilization. Risk minimization must be done in places where there is possibility of mass gathering such as banks, malls, public places, public transportation including ambulance, hospitals, offices and even homes. This training package shall be the stepping stone in NRCS WASH interventions as it will provide the dominant role in the sector of health, hygiene and sanitation.

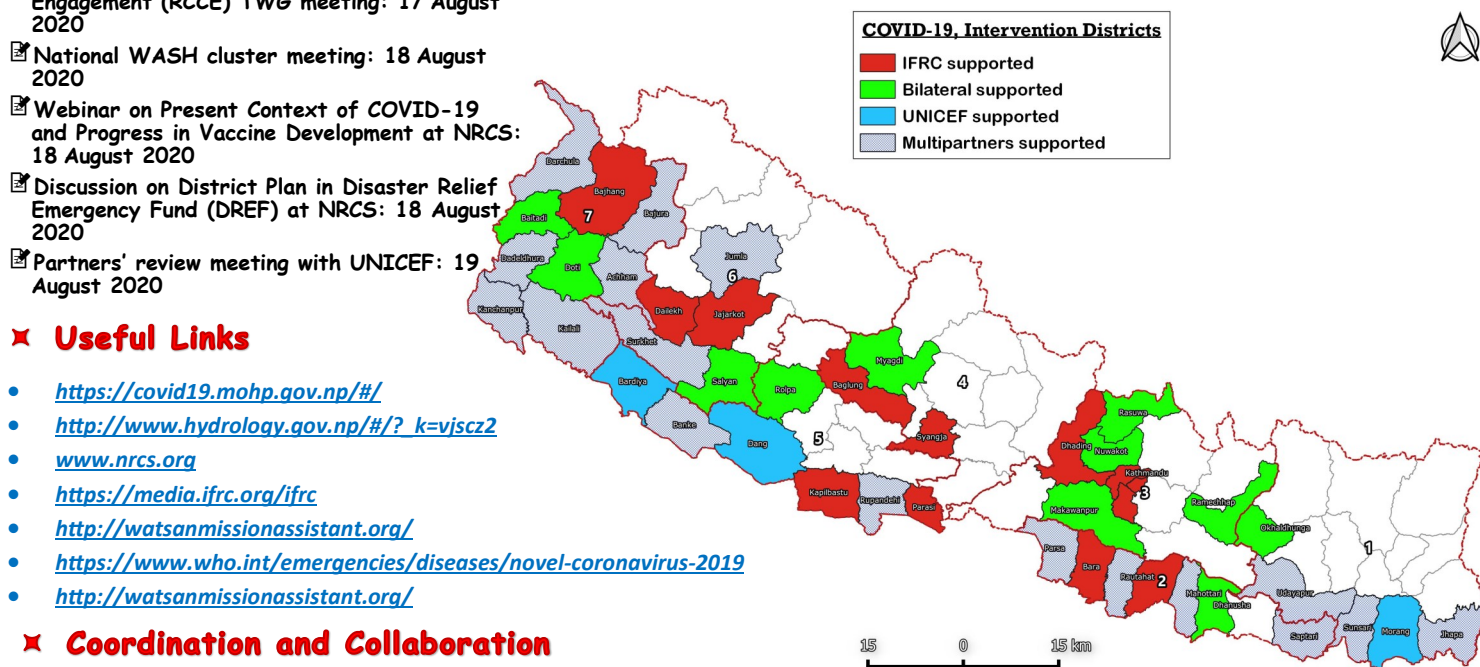
COVID-19: Do's & Don'ts at the workplace



✱ Upcoming Events

- ✱ National Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) TWG meeting: 17 August 2020
- ✱ National WASH cluster meeting: 18 August 2020
- ✱ Webinar on Present Context of COVID-19 and Progress in Vaccine Development at NRCS: 18 August 2020
- ✱ Discussion on District Plan in Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) at NRCS: 18 August 2020
- ✱ Partners' review meeting with UNICEF: 19 August 2020

✱ COVID-19 WASH Project Intervention Mapping



✱ Useful Links

- <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>
- <http://www.hydrology.gov.np/#/?k=vjcz2>
- www.nrscs.org
- <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc>
- <http://watsanmissionassistant.org/>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- <http://watsanmissionassistant.org/>

✱ Coordination and Collaboration

All NRCS actions related to COVID-19 are in-line with GON MOHP, HEOC guideline and initiatives. NRCS province offices, district chapters and sub-chapters have remained in close contact with local authorities and supporting their plan for quarantine, isolation and holding site assessment, establishment and management. Participation in district disaster management committee meeting in all districts. Participation in WASH cluster meeting (national and provincial) and other meetings such as media interaction programme.

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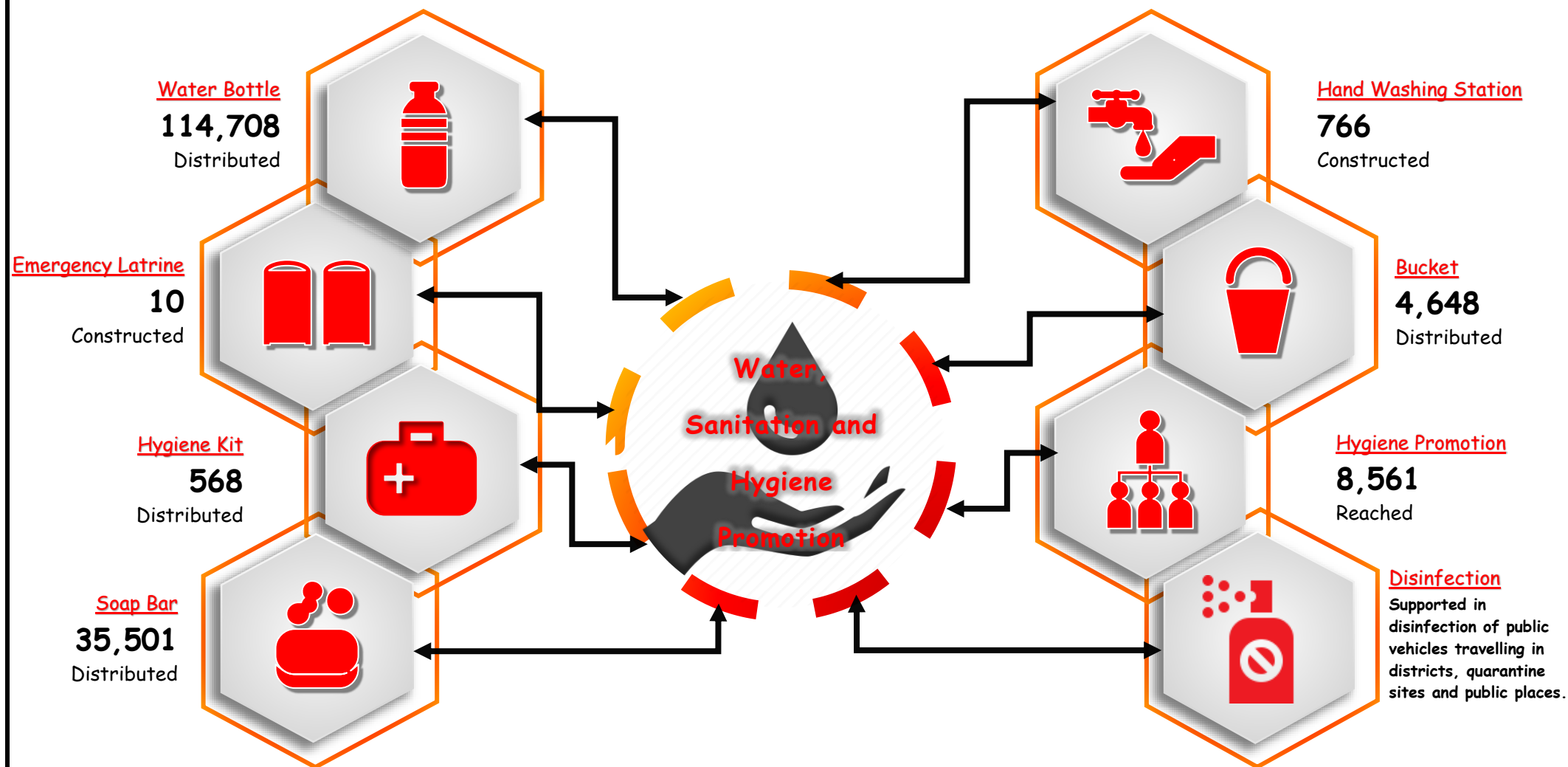
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WASH

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE OPERATION



Update as on 17th August, 2020

Source: NRCS Daily Sitrep