



COVID-19 and Monsoon Preparedness and Response Operation

✦ Background

Government of Nepal has extended nationwide lockdown to minimize the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission and widened the testing facilities in various stations throughout Nepal. Considering the spike in cases, local government have also re-considered additional restriction measures in local level. The government data reflects the increased death toll and number of people in isolation.

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). 77 district chapters of NRCS is engaged restlessly in various activities such as food distribution, quarantine management, ambulance services, awareness raising activities, distribution of tents/tarpaulins and non-food relief items (NFRI), restoring family links, psychosocial first aid, health/help desk, supporting personal protective equipment (PPE) to frontline workers, distribution of sanitizers, hygiene kits, soaps and information dissemination through IEC materials following the mandates of Government of Nepal. The NRCS frontline workers are also ensured with the safety and security along with insurance provision against COVID-19. Along with COVID-19, NRCS is also involved in monsoon preparedness and response activities.

✦ Monsoon Updates

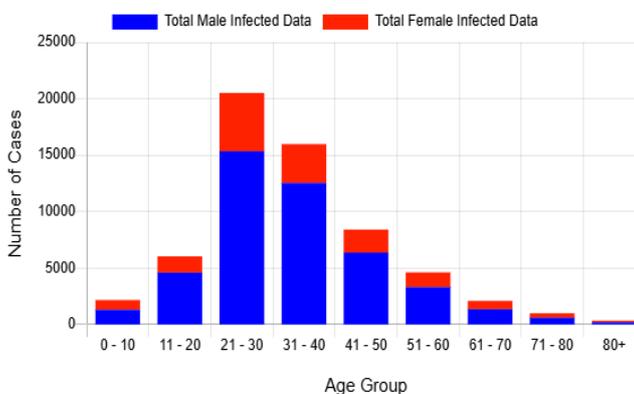
Along with COVID-19, NRCS is also involved in monsoon preparedness and response activities. Major rainy season which is the monsoon period is about 105 days which falls between mid- June to September. The average annual rainfall of Nepal is 1,600 mm, but it varies by eco-climatic zones with extremes, such as 3,345 mm in Pokhara and below 300 mm in Mustang. Since July 2020, due to heavy rainfall and landslide in different parts of the country, more than 267 deaths, 103 missing and 144 injured has been reported by Disaster Management Department, NRCS till 16th September 2020. It has also displaced more than 9,220 households and directly affected more than 22,444 households.

Nepal Metrological Department predicts active monsoon still for some time which may lead to heavy rainfall in days to come. The numbers of affected families have been increasing day-by-day and is likely to continue. NRCS trained volunteers are heavily mobilized in affected districts for conducting disaster assessment, supporting in search and rescue, setting up temporary shelter, responding to the landslides and flood affected areas, providing first aid services, cleaning the affected hand pumps and water sources, construction of emergency toilets, distribution of WASH relief items including shelter NFRI, ready to eat food items, spreading awareness and relief/cash distribution through its district chapters following the safety and security measures against COVID-19.

Situation Overview (as of 19 September 2020)

Description	Nepal	Global
# of Confirmed Cases	61,593	30,717,711
# of patients recovered	43,820	22,352,757
# of death	390	956,864
# of people in quarantine	7,736	
# of people in isolation	17,383	7,408,090
#of Countries Affected		188

Source: MOHP situation report (click on the link for updates)
<https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>



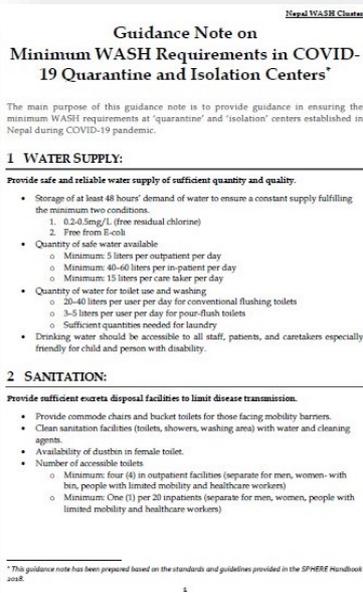
Statistical Situation: Summary as of 16 September, 2020

Dead	267
Missing	103
Injured	144
Displaced Families	9220
Affected Families	22444
Houses Destroyed	
Fully	4538
Partially	6889
NFRIs distributed	
NFRIs full set	1534
Tarpaulin	4705
Blanket	1169
Utensil	280
Number of Volunteer mobilized	114
WASH items distributed	
Hygiene kit	1066
Emergency toilets set	14
Aqua tab	1000
Soap	1950
Bucket	1082

✦ Government in action

Guidance Note on Minimum WASH Requirements in COVID-19 in Quarantine and Isolation Centers

WASH cluster leading by Nepal government has endorsed the guidance on minimum WASH requirement for COVID-19 in quarantines and isolation centre to guide all the WASH agencies working in Nepal. This is a minimum requirement, which could be up-scaled available Being an ter member tional level, Cross Socie- ed endorsed WASH re- implement it pandemic across all and isola- tres. This is which helps formity porting na- quarantines centres considering the minimum need to current situa- tion by various WASH agencies in regards of quality water supply, safe sanitation and hygiene kits.



based on resources. active clus- in organiza- Nepal Red ty has adopt- guidance on requirement to in covid-19 situation quarantines tions cen- a guidance to bring uni- while sup- sionwide and isolation

Click on the below link for detail.

<https://dwssm.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Minimum-WASH-requirements-in-COVID-19-quarantine-WASH-ClusterFinal-1.pdf>

School reopening work model- a guideline by Nepal Government

All the school and educational institutions throughout the nation has been shut down amidst the nationwide lockdown since 24th March 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. Not only grad- ing annual exam of grade 11 and 12 has been postponed until further notice even r higher secondary exam board has taken decision to publish result of SEE (grade 10) based on the respective schools internal evaluation scoring.

Nationwide over 3,000 schools is been used as quaran- tines and isolation center whereas on the other side it is challenging to continue the annual education calendar set by Nepal Government, for which Ministry of Educa- tion, Science and Technology has endorsed and wider disseminated 'School Re-opening Work Model' to guide all the line ministries, departments, Parents' Teachers' association, schools management commit- tee and stakeholders of community as a local strategy for reopening schools by maintaining safety for students, teachers and staffs from the pandemic.



[Click on the icon for detail.](#)

✦ Highlight story

Happiest Srsthi

Sristhi Thapa (4 yrs old) is very happy and surprised to see different sanitary items like toothpaste, brush, soap in the hygiene kit. Hygiene kits are distributed by NRCS with partnership of UNICEF. Her house is in Gadawa-1, Banwari Rural Municipality Dang. Now she is living with her mother, Kamala Thapa in Gadawa-3, quaran- tine center after returning from India.

In the same way Aasha Nepali (32 yrs old) Gadawa-3 says in happy mood "sanitary items of the hy- giene kit pro- vides more faci- lities especially

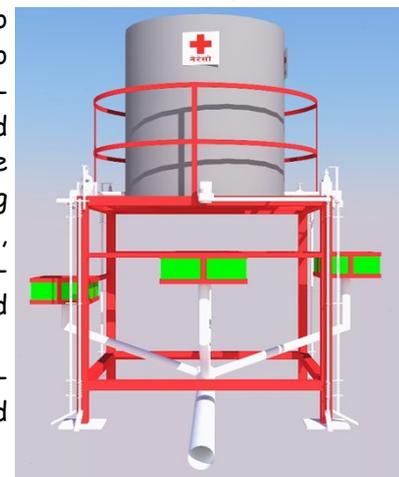


Sristhi with her mother after receiving hygiene kit in quarantine (PC: NRCS, Dang)

for women and children. We are very grateful with NRCS and UNICEF for providing such a useful kit especially for women." In this hygiene kit remains sanitary pad, panty, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, soap, towel etc. Three chil- dren are happily staying with comfort in this quarantine with their parents. They are thankful to the UNICEF and NRCS for helping and providing such items in their hands at their door steps.

Innovation in WASH

CCOVID-19 cases in Nepal are now being observed to be widely spread in the community level. As the increas- ing number of positive cases indicates, there are some districts which are turning into COVID-19 hot spots. In order to spread and to from the in- NRCS had an innovative hand washing contact less, ed handwash- are stationed communities, isolation cen- places and necessary.



Rendered sample of foot operated Handwashing Station PC:Kiran Acharya, WASH Engineer, NRCS

As the gests, foot hand wash- tion are but very effectively designed so that no person touches the tap and soap with their bare hands, rather, foot is used to press the pedal and the job for hand washing is done effectively without the risk of virus infection and trans- mission. Now, NRCS is mandatorily advocating for this type of contact less hand washing station within all its COVID- 19 related WASH projects.

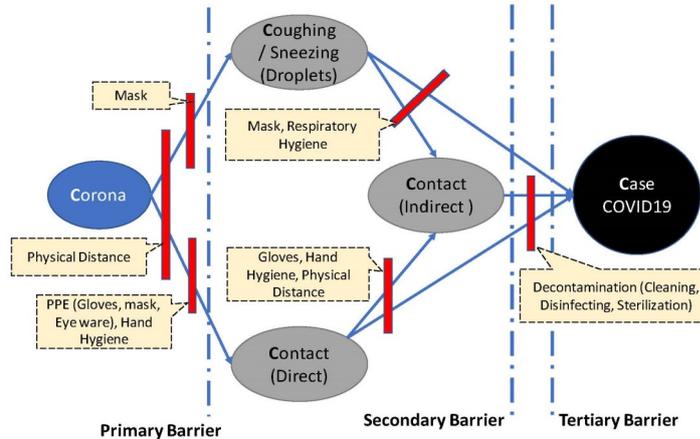
✦ Training Package (One day WASH orientation in COVID-19)

"Frequent hand washing with soap is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of Coronavirus"

In this COVID-19 pandemic situation, Nepal is one of the high-risk countries due to limited health and hygiene facilities and personal behavior perspectives. In Nepal, the COVID-19 cases have thought to spread and reached at 4th stage of transmission which has led to difficulty in contact tracing and control the cases in the community as well. In this situation, people need to keep themselves safe from corona virus by following the SMS (Soap/Sanitizer, Mask & Social Distance) system. Besides, local government entities, NGOs/INGOs and NRCS should also focus on disseminating and advocating the key information in the community on how to be safe from the pandemic by promoting personal practice such as hygiene and maintenance.

According to WHO, Nepal is a high-risk country for the pandemic transmission, including: poor health monitoring mechanisms, open borders with India, migrant workers across the borders, insufficient staff and equipment to deal with public health emergencies and poor nationwide sanitation facilities and access to water and good hygiene practices. However, the first line of defense to control the spread of infectious diseases including COVID-19. Along with other

5C DIAGRAM (Corona Transmission Routes and Barriers)



5C Diagram for corona transmission routes and barriers analysis

hygiene behavior hand hygiene, cough maintaining social dis-

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important behaviors, washing hands frequently or following the step by step process of hand washing is essential to control the spread of the Coronavirus. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) being a pioneer in WASH interventions in Nepal has prepared a one-day orientation package of "One Day WASH Orientation in COVID-19" with the target to produce the skillful local staff and volunteers to promote the hand hygiene, cough hygiene, sneeze hygiene and maintaining social and physical distancing intervention to stop the spread of COVID-19 infection in the community. Based on NRCS emergency WASH and hygiene promotion experience, this orientation package has been prepared with the discussion on the current situation along with significant feedback from the NRCS WASH division team, WASH focal person and participating national societies (PNSs). This orientation package covers the WHO WASH policy, Nepal Governmental WASH policy and other relevant standards and policies issued by the Nepal Government in relation to control of COVID-19 pandemic. This orientation package aims to produce trained human resource which will be capable to disseminate the knowledge on controlling COVID-19 pandemic situation.

✦ 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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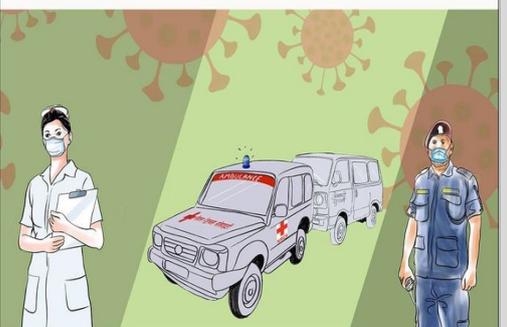
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कोरोना भाइरस (कोभिड-१९) बाट आफू पनि बचाउ र अरुलाई पनि बचाऔं



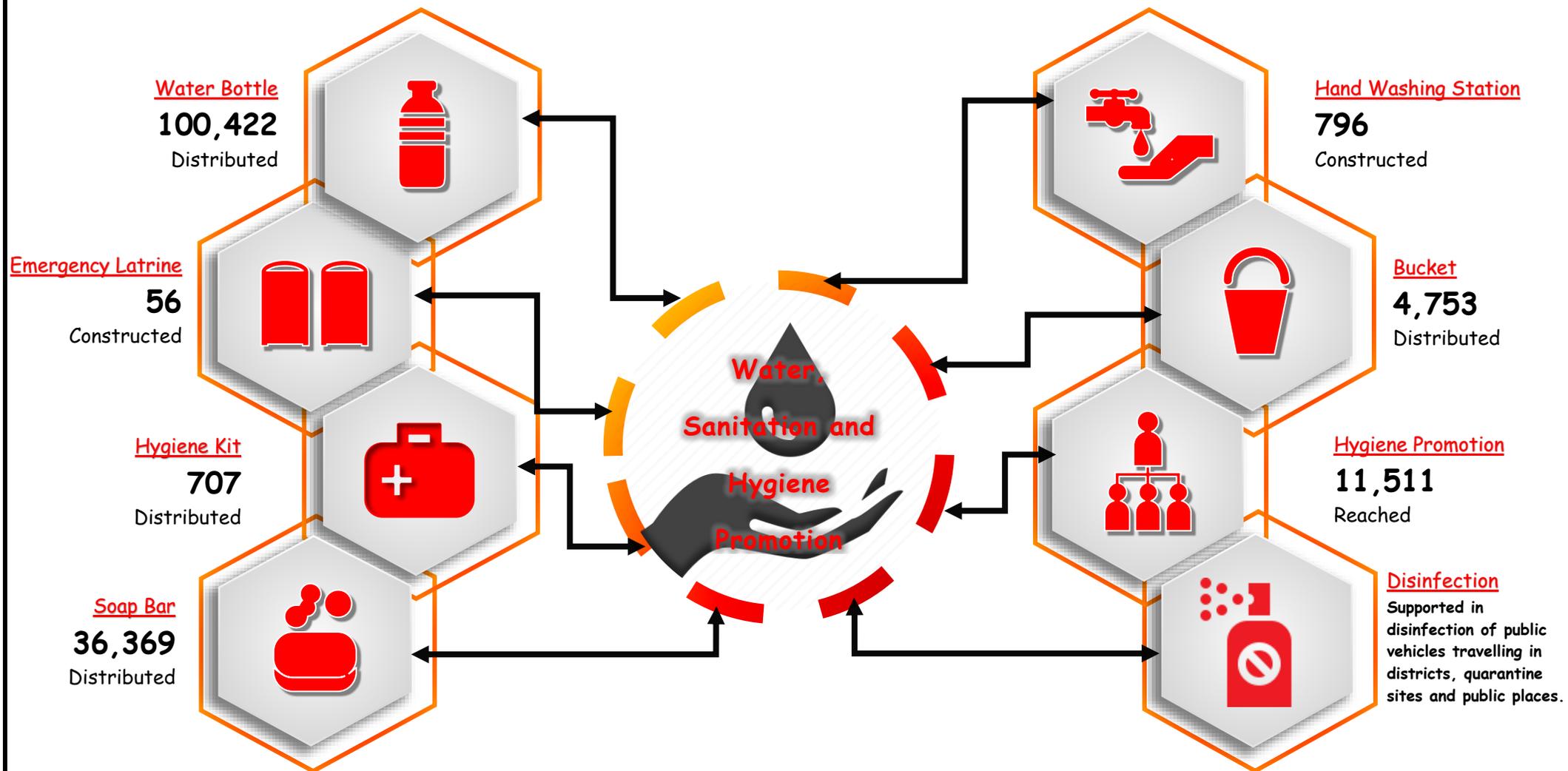
स्वास्थ्यकर्मी, सुरक्षाकर्मी, एम्बुलेन्स र अत्यावश्यक सेवाका सवारी चालक, सरसफाइकर्मी, खाद्यान्न आपूर्तिकर्ता, जनप्रतिनिधि, सञ्चारकर्मी र रेडक्रसकर्मी लगायतका व्यक्तिहरूले कोभिड-१९ को महामारीमा पनि उच्च जोखिममा रही अग्रपङ्क्तिमा सेवा दिई रहनु भएको छ। उहाँहरूलाई सहयोग र सम्मान गरौं।

Let us support and respect the frontline workers including health service providers, security personnel, cleaning workers, people representatives, journalist, Red Cross volunteers as well as ambulance driver and who are providing services even in the pandemic situation.



WASH

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE OPERATION



Update as on 14th September, 2020

Source: https://bit.ly/NRCS_COVID19_Dashboard