Background

Nepal has been experiencing the wide transmission of COVID-19 pandemic and it has spread in all 75 districts. The coronavirus death toll in Nepal has crossed 739. Similarly, the number of people in isolation are increasing along with the number of recovering patients. Overall, the gender distribution remains skewed towards male, who constitute around 69 percent (91247) of the confirmed cases and 31 percent (40999) are female. Considering the spike in cases, local government has re-considered additional restriction measures in hot spot whereas the MoHP on 4th October has urged the general public to celebrate the upcoming one of the biggest national festivals (Dashain and Tihar) where they are currently residing.

COVID-19 clinics have been operating from 125 hospitals and RT-PCR test is currently being conducted rapidly from around 57 (40 government and 17 private) designated COVID-19 laboratories throughout the country. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) with its 77 districts chapters has been actively involved in COVID-19 preparedness and response since early February 2020 in coordination with the local, provincial and national government.

Monsoon Updates

NRCS maintaining its core mandate, is heavily involved in flood and landslide response activities from the first day of incidents utilizing its wider network of volunteers, sub-chapters, district chapters, province offices and HQs. NRCS in response is continuing its relief distribution services in different sectors such as WASH, PGI, Health and Non-Food Relief Items (NFRI).

The IRA (Initial Rapid Assessment) report has recorded 59 flood/landslide incidents which has resulted in 281 deaths in 38 districts of the country. Apart from this, 104 persons are missing and 153 have been injured. Calculating its impact on families, cumulatively 23,319 households were directly affected by flood/landslides. Out of this figure, almost 9,626 households have been compelled to be displaced. Report states only around 50% of displaced families could return to their original places. Remaining are still in temporary places and waiting additional recovery assistance. Not only this, flood/landslide have destroyed 11,867 households categorically 4,641 as fully damaged and 7,226 households as a partial damage. It is yet to calculate the total resources required to build back better communities.

Statistical Situation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Nepal</th>
<th>Global</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Confirmed Cases</td>
<td>132,246</td>
<td>39,745,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of patients recovered</td>
<td>92,166</td>
<td>27,336,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of death</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>1,110,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of people in quarantine</td>
<td>4,831</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of people in isolation</td>
<td>39,341</td>
<td>7,408,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Countries Affected</td>
<td>189</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistical Situation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NFRIs distributed</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NFRIs full set</td>
<td>1754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarpaulin</td>
<td>5147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanket</td>
<td>1237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utensil</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Volunteer mobilized</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WASH items distributed</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene kit</td>
<td>1320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency toilets set</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aqua tab</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap</td>
<td>1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bucket</td>
<td>1086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piyush (Water purification)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Displaced Families 9626
Number of Affected Families 23319
Number of Dead 281
Number of Missing 104
Number of Injured 153
Number of Fully Destroyed HH 7226
Number of Partially Destroyed HH 4641
Government in action
Nepal Landslide and floods site assessment

The 2015 post-earthquake survey shows that there are several places in the mountainous areas of Nepal where the villages were at the risk of land deformation and landslides. It was recommended to relocate such high risk villages to safer places and to construct an embankment wall with proper drainage system to mitigate the sliding risks and water seeping through cracks. However, expert suggestions were not followed and result is every year after 2015 earthquake, people are facing impacts of landslides. This year, it has increased rapidly and still is in incremental trend, not only huge number of people were displaced but death tolls has also increased.

The latest report of “Nepal Landslide and Floods Sites Assessment” prepared by International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster in Nepal shows that within 29 active sites assessed 5,467 displaced individuals from 1,066 households of 5 districts were residing in these sites. Among which 51% of the displacement site population are female and 49% are male. Observing critical situations, Nepal Government has prepared the reallocation plans and has started to relocate people in safer places nearby their original inhabitant. In this relocation process, rural and urban municipalities are being sensitized to pertain their roles and responsibilities in disaster risk management, implementation of the preparedness programs, response, recovery and reconstruction as per Local Government Operations Act, 2017 as well as Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017. (click on the below link for the full report)


Beneficiaries’ voice
community hygiene messengers

Bimala Deviram (55) and Jalina Khatun (45), inhabitants of Sunsari district, Bhokraha Narasinga Rural Municipality ward number 8 attended awareness session on COVID-19 facilitated by NRCS WASH supervisor, learnt proper steps of hand washing with soap.

“We have been washing hands but for the first time we know that there are proper steps and techniques of hand washing with soap which we are now going to teach in the community, we therefore are very thankful to NRCS for making us a part of learning session.” Jalina Khatun and Bimala Deviram.

Local government voice
thank you NRCS!

Padam Singh Thagunna President of Melauli Municipality Ward no- 8 said that “to promote hand washing behavior in all households inclusively, NRCS western disaster preparedness project conduct public awareness activities along with bucket and soap distribution.” He further added that “for quarantine management, NRCS also provides water tank and soap.” He thanks NRCS for timely launching of this project in the community during COVID-19 pandemic. He also reached each household to motivate and change community people behavior in hygiene promotion activities.
Girls practicing hand washing with soap from household handwashing station, Baitadi (PC: Niraj Shrestha)

Mask and sanitizer distribution to front line workers, Dadeldura (PC: Dilli Raj Joshi)

IEC Materials developed in tribute to front line workers by NRCS

PPE support to Okhaldhunga District Hospital, Okhaldhunga (PC: NRCS Okhaldhunga)

Distribution of relief materials to the flood and landslide affected community, Salyan (PC: Purna Prasad Hamal)

Bucket and soap distribution to community people, Doti (PC: Rabin Dhakal & Rup Bahadur Kathayet)

Celebrating global handwashing day by demonstrating proper ways of handwashing with soap, Dailekh (PC: Bhakta Rawat)

Hygiene Kit distribution to COVID-19 infected people, Ramechhap (PC: Sulochana Dahal)
Global Handwashing Day (15 Oct. 2020)

In order to motivate people around the world to improve their hand washing habits, global hand washing day is celebrated every 15th of October since 2008. It is also a global advocacy and reminder campaign dedicated for increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of hand washing with soap and water as an effective and affordable way to prevent disease transmission and saving lives. Washing hands with water and soap in critical time is very much important and effective to break the 5F (Faeces, Fluid, Flies, Field and Finger) transmission route and prevent from spreading germs to stay healthy. The 2020-2024 Global Hand Washing Partnership (GHP) Strategic Plan emphasizes the focus on advocacy, knowledge management and highlights the greater need for integration and country level action.

This year, global hand washing day theme focuses on the links between hand washing and food, including food hygiene and nutrition. This years’ theme is “Hand Hygiene for All” seeking to raise awareness of availability and access of soap and water globally, especially in public places, schools and health care facilities. It also calls for institutions and individuals to improve hand hygiene effort in the COVID-19 response that can outlast the pandemic and ensures continued access to soap and water.

As of ‘Center of Community Disease Control and Prevention’, hand washing education in the community can:
- Reduce the number of people who get sick with diarrheal disease by about 23-40%
- Reduce absenteeism due to gastrointestinal illness in school children by 29-57%
- Reduce the diarrheal illness in people with weakened immune system by about 58%
- Reduce respiratory illness, like colds, in general population by about 16-21%

Following the global trend and RCRC movement, NRCS is also celebrating Global Hand Washing day as a month long campaign from 29th September to 29th October. All 77 district chapters with their unique promotional campaigns and a universal theme of “Hand Hygiene for All” are celebrating the event despite of COVID - 19 crisis.

5W Reporting

With the localized operation of COVID-19 initiated by the NRCS, the implementation plan responding to 5 key areas (Health, WASH, PGI, CEA and Shelter), 2 enabling action (NSD and PMER.IM) and 3 support functions (Finance, Logistic and Human Resource) has been finalized and ready to implement in districts with constant monitoring of the situation, giving emphasis to safety and security of staff/ volunteers involved to the utmost level.

With overall objective to support the management and program team and give the overview of: the activities implemented in the targeted areas, reaching vulnerable population, quick result of approach and strategy applied, changes in intervention, NRCS therefore introduced 5W reporting tool designed to meet the need of implementing program team, partners and stakeholders at different timeframe. Keeping it simple, 5W table answers What, Who, Where, When and Whom/Why question to each activity/event to get the information.

Three days WASH Training Package on COVID-19

Considering the rapid spread of COVID-19 in various communities, WASH team of NRCS has coordinated and led in developing different WASH training packages on COVID-19. This training is designed to orient and train the volunteers, staffs and community people to deliver knowledge, skills and also to motivate trainees on proper application of behavioural communication change in daily life. The “Three days WASH Training Package on COVID - 19” includes endorsed contents from WHO guidelines, journals and guidelines from different departments and ministries of Nepal Government as well as various institutions and academia as a reference. The contents of this training are as follows:
- Origin of COVID-19
- Coughing Hygiene
- Physical Distance
- Hand Hygiene
- WASH Facilities
- Disinfection Method and Importance
- Risk Communication

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Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

- **Water Bottle**: 302,425 Distributed
- **Emergency Latrine**: 56 Constructed
- **Hygiene Kit**: 1300 Distributed
- **Soap Bar**: 37,305 Distributed
- **Disinfection campaigns**: 46
- **Total people reached**: 152,921 direct
- **Hand Washing Station**: 800 Constructed
- **Bucket**: 5,487 Distributed
- **Update as on 15th October, 2020**

Nepal Red Cross Society