

# WASH NEWSLETTER

Loudspeaker message  
dissemination, Parsa

Issue#5; Oct.-Nov. 2020

## COVID-19 and Monsoon Preparedness and Response Operation

### ✖ Background

The COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented in recent history and is spreading globally. Nepal currently witnessed its' one of the major national festival (Dashain) in a different scenario than previous years. Most of the people celebrated the festival from their current residing places instead of visiting their native homes, following the government request. People are now more cautious as this pandemic reached the community level. Monsoon has just ended but the coming winter is predicted to be more vulnerable for COVID-19 patients in Nepal as per experts. RT-PCR test is being conducted rapidly from around 72 (43 government and 29 private) designated COVID-19 laboratories around the country.

NRCS with its 77 district chapters has been actively engaged in various WASH activities such as disinfecting, quarantine management, awareness raising activities, supporting personal protective equipment (PPE) to frontline workers, distribution of sanitizers, hygiene kits, soaps and information dissemination through IEC materials in coordination with local, provincial and national government of Nepal for COVID-19 preparedness and response. Along with COVID-19, NRCS has also involved in monsoon preparedness and response activities.

### ✖ Monsoon Updates

Monsoon has recently stopped in Nepal resulting to minimal number of landslides but as a response program, NRCS is working regularly in affected districts since June 2020 to date. Altogether, 486 volunteers have been mobilized in 40 affected districts. In total, 63 Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) compiled reports have been received from affected districts.

Monsoon response activities has currently been more focused in 14 affected districts as per the gap areas identified by the detail assessment that was conducted in those districts. One of major response sector is WASH.

After the detail assessment, following needs came as most priority in WASH sector.

- ☑ Safe drinking water
- ☑ WASH kits
- ☑ Emergency Toilets and household latrine
- ☑ Hygiene and sanitation awareness
- ☑ Repair and reconstruction of water source and points

### Recent Response on WASH:

WASH items have been dispatched to the affected districts, and response is ongoing. 30 squatting plates, 270 hygiene kits, 800 soap and 10,000 chlorine tabs were dispatched recently.

1,396 people have been reached through hygiene promotion activities like IEC material distribution, hand washing demonstration and orientation on the use of chlorine tablets on by district volunteers.

### Situation Overview (as of 13 November 2020)

Description	Nepal	Global
# of confirmed cases	204,242	52,678,681
# of patients recovered	164,592	34,099,929
# of death	1,189	1,292,228
# of people in isolation	38,461	14,579,785
#of countries affected	191	

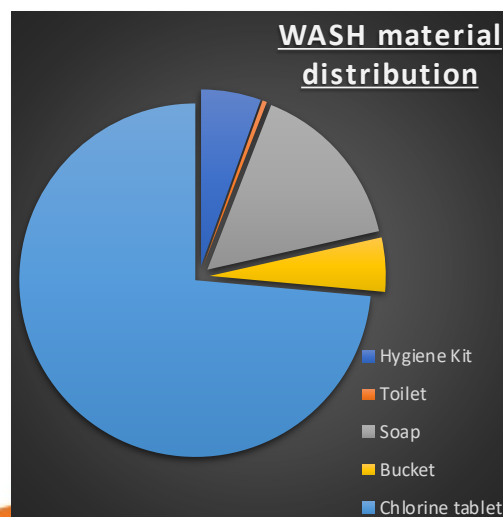
(click for updates): <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>  
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

### Statistical Situation: Summary as of 12 November, 2020

#### WASH items distributed

Hygiene kit	1,576
Emergency toilets set	116
Aqua tab	1,000
Soap	4,458
Bucket	1,416
Chlorine tab (Water purification)	21,050

### WASH material distribution



## ✦ Relentless work by NRCS

### Business continuity plan

Business continuity plan reflects the current status and possibility of business continuity of overall projects running across different communities through Community Development Department. Besides, this is to analyze the potential critical risks and to identify relevant mitigation measures to be taken by Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and respective Partner National Societies (PNS).

Taking into account of the COVID-19 situation, Nepal Government has imposed nationwide lockdown from 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 which stopped almost all the implementation activities and field movement. Immediately after nationwide lockdown, series of consultation meeting within Red Cross management had begun on how to continue the project business and prepare for upcoming consequences along with identifying critical risks and possible mitigation measures that could be shared to respective stakeholders for joint effort. Two types of Business Continuity Plan (BCP), Project wise and Staff wise was initiated with clear explanation of current situation, possible mitigation measures and preparedness for future consequences as a joint effort from April to June 2020 and has currently been extended till December 2020.

BCP helped a lot to visualize the current COVID-19 risk, possible mitigation measures and preparedness for future consequences. It is not only helpful to realize for project continuation but also trigger for safer COVID-19 response as a humanitarian actor. BCP helped to think prior to all stakeholders if any changes encounters in Plan of Action (PoA) of any running projects.

## ✦ Marking Global Hand Washing Day

15 October 2020

From the end of 2019 till date, the whole world is suffering from the pandemic and yet the entire world has put its effort to tackle with the pandemic as well as to find the vaccine to cure the disease. As the globe marked "Global Hand washing Day" on October 15<sup>th</sup>, Nepal had launched one-month long handwashing day celebration from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October with an objective to highlight the importance of handwashing with soap. This year's theme for Global Handwashing Day- *Hand Hygiene for All*- is aligned with WHO and UNICEF's *Hand Hygiene for All Initiatives* which is designed around three main topics:

### Responding to the immediate pandemic:

In order to respond the immediate pandemic, NRCS has significantly increased the hygiene promotion activities. More than 154,479 people have been directly benefited from WASH activities since the outbreak of the pandemic.

### Rebuilding infrastructure and services:

The prevailing pandemic has made the people more concern about their hand hygiene and has also made a positive impact in their lives by practicing frequent handwashing with soap. To promote handwashing with soap, NRCS has established hand washing stations in public as well as in institutional level so as to aware the community in adapting handwashing in all scenarios. The pandemic has also led NRCS in establishing contactless handwashing stations so as to avoid transmission of diseases through contact.

### Reimagining hand hygiene in society:

Leaving no one behind and bringing communities to the forefront of any operations, NRCS is promoting hand hygiene through community engagement so as to meet the needs of the communities.

November 2020 (Published by: Nepal Red Cross Society, National Headquarters, Red Cross Marg, Kalimati)



Hygiene promotion in community (PC: Ajay Yadav, Parsa)

## ✦ Success Story

### Surprised gift for Sandhya

Sandhya from Shree Uchhangal Ramdev Kalwar Secondary School, Pokhariya Municipality ward no. 4 Parsa, was surprised while entering the school for admission in class 9 after lockdown. She recalled her grade 8 days when toilet was filthy and in poor condition without basic toilet amenities. This unhygienic toilet was the sole reason of absenteeism in school during her periods and other girls also have similar stories. She happily said that toilet was well maintained than before and there were child-friendly well managed water taps and hand washing station near school gate. She further said, excitedly "I see an information board written on the wall, Nepal Red Cross Society in collaboration with UNICEF, and I understand the contributor of those changes."

Previously, she was little hesitant about the usage of hand washing station but as soon as her teacher taught how to use contactless hand washing station she was clear about its benefit. Its extra feature of operating the tap by legs instead of hands minimizes the risk of contamination of COVID-19. She said surprisingly 'I am aware of the NRCS's support for community sanitation and awareness in our community, but I have seen the improvements in my school today. For me and my friends, this is a surprise gift'. She also said that the changes are very interesting, but she is worried about the continuity of those positive changes. We students and the school have to plan and prepare for them to be sustainable.





## ✱ Nepal Red Cross Society in Action



Hygiene kit distributed to community people (PC: NRCS, Bara)



Proper hand washing technique demonstration in front of community children (PC: NRCS, Parsa)

### कोभिडको समयमा सार्वजनिक यातायातमा कसरी यात्रा गर्ने ? यात्रुहरुले के गर्ने, के नगर्ने ?

- बसमा यात्रा गर्दा अनिवार्य रूपमा मास्क लगाउने ।
- सिटहरुमा दूरी (कम्तीमा २ मिटर) कायम गरेर बस्ने ।
- यात्रुहरुले आफूसँग पनि स्यानिटाइजर बोक्ने र गाडी चढेपछि र ओर्लिएपछि स्यानिटाइजरले हात सफा गर्ने ।
- गाडी चढ्दा लाइन लागेर मात्र गाडी चढ्ने ।
- सकेसम्म खुद्रा पैसाको व्यवस्था आफै गरेर दिँदा सजिलो र जोखिमरहित हुन्छ ।
- लामो दूरीको टिकट सकेसम्म अनलाइन खरिद गर्ने ।
- टिकट किन्न जाँदा पनि दूरी कायम गरेर किन्ने ।
- बस स्टप तथा बाटोमा खानेकुरा नकिन्ने र आवश्यक सामान आफूसँग बोक्ने ।
- इयालहरु खुला राखेर बस्नुपर्छ ताकि हावा आवतजावत हुँदोस् ।
- सकेसम्म अत्यधिक व्यस्त हुने समयमा यात्रा नगर्ने र अत्यधिक चाप रहने रूटतिर नजाने ।
- अनावश्यक रूपमा बस, ट्याक्सी लगायतका सवारी साधनका इयाल ढोकाको डण्डी तथा सिट नछुने । छोएमा हातमा स्यानिटाइजर लगाउनुपर्छ ।
- बसमा निःशुल्क दिइने पानीका बोतल, पत्रिका लगायतहरु नलिन ।
- बसमा घरीघरी मास्क खोलेर खानेकुरा नखाने ।

स्रोत : कान्तिपुर

 Nepal Red Cross Society

### IEC Materials developed by NRCS for the use of public vehicle in COVID times



Distribution of face mask to the children of tallo goste community, Pokhara (PC: NRCS Kaski)



Water filter installation in Juddha Ma. Vi. premises in support with UNICEF (PC: NRCS Rautahat)



Dissemination of IEC materials in the community centers (PC: Hari Maharjan, Lalitpur)



Mask distribution to COVID-19 infected family (PC: NRCS Kathmandu)



## ✱ Water Project Innovation: Hybrid Connection System (PV and Power Grid)

Devastating 2015 Nepal earthquake had badly damaged numbers of lives, livestock and physical assets across many districts. The NRCS took over the responsibility for integrated recovery response (Shelter, WASH, Livelihood and Health) at Sitalpati VDC in Sindhuli.

During the earthquake recovery schemes were completed out of lifting systems during the close WASH-CC through which water setting was made. As the remaining need of access to drinking water, opment Project started after close team focusing to complete remain-water lifting systems in the commu-

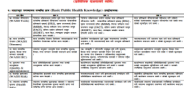
Rest four gravity fed project has community people has showed expect sole power grid, as power cult to bare for longer run. And, money for each unit. In a team, we tion for water lift and it were under course of designing, EWB, a German support technically and financially as a new option; solar and power grid, which looks very much relevant not only for sustainable run rather for regular service. If either of them encounter any defect then another could work for regular run of water service.

As we have experienced, power grid water lift projects either became in functional or community themselves stopped to use sufficient water for their daily uses due to high cost water tariff, hence hybrid connection has been adopting considering the sustainable run by paying minimum water tariff from community users.

## ✱ WASH Competency Framework (based on IFRC competency framework)

NRCS, Community Development Department- WASH division redeveloped emergency WASH training curriculum on Basic emergency WASH, WRT and WASH NDRT which has been in-line with IFRC WASH competency framework. Each training participants require WASH technical competencies to be fulfill from basic to high level and are evaluated based on agreed criteria of required technical competencies. According to evaluation of participants, they will be recommended and deployed on particular sub-competency or competencies on particular tier.

Tier A	Tier B	Tier C
Demonstrate Knowledge of particular sub-competency (Technician roles)	Able to carry out of sub-competency (Manager roles)	Able to design and evaluate of sub-competency (Coordinator / Leader roles)



click on the above icon to download file

In RCRC WASH emergency trainings, particularly eight sub-competencies areas will be prioritized for conceptual and practical sessions. However, all these sub-competencies might not be applied equivalently to all levels of emergency WASH trainings. The level of the sub-competency areas will be defined by the level of training i.e. higher the training level- the more detail will be the sub-competency area. To achieve tier A for the competency, the participant must achieve at least 70% of tier A in the sub-competencies and similarly for tiers B and C. We have to keep in mind that if someone is in tier B, it means the participant has also tier A competence and when participant is in tier C, it means he/she is in A and B competency too.

After the evaluation, data will be documented and updated in roster with recommended profile so that right person can be deployed in right profile. The deployment of emergency WASH trained person will be deployed by Disaster Management Department based on the roster and the profile required. WASH competency framework is a part of 'Volunteer Promotional Guideline for Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion'.

## ✱ Upcoming/participated event

- WASH in cash meeting on 5th November
- APRO Health and WASH webinar on 10th November
- WASH literature club meeting on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th November
- WASH cluster meeting every two weeks

## Contact Detail

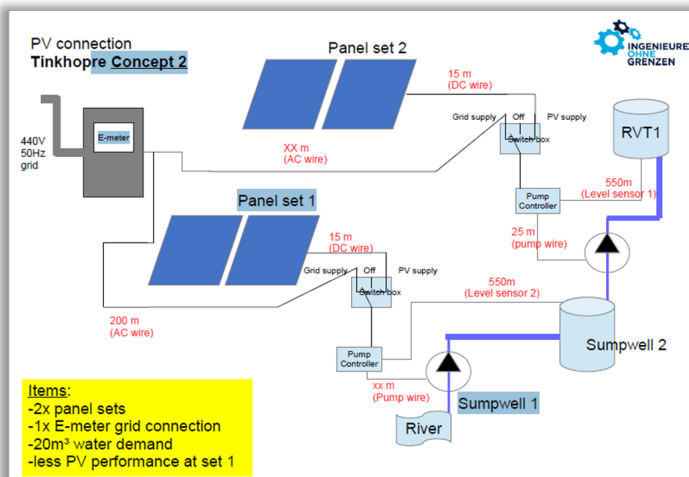
Sagar Shrestha, Director, Community Development Department  
email: [sagar.shrestha@nrscs.org](mailto:sagar.shrestha@nrscs.org), contact: +977-9803202129

Amar Mani Poudel, Deputy Director, Community Development Department  
email: [amar.poudel@nrscs.org](mailto:amar.poudel@nrscs.org), contact: +977-9841397184

Suvechhya Manandhar, PMER Coordinator, Community Development Department, WASH Division, email: [suvechhya.manandhar@nrscs.org](mailto:suvechhya.manandhar@nrscs.org), contact: +977-9841134868

## Contributors

Kiran Kumar Acharya (WASH Engineer), Sirjana Devkota (PMER Officer), Birendra Shahi (WASH Coordinator), Community Development Department, Disaster Management Department, Health Department, Junior/Youth Department and Humanitarian Values and Communication Department



operation, only six drinking water proposed including 3 water coordination-consultation with V resource mapping and priority communities were also in dire hence, WASH Recovery Development Project started after close team focusing to complete remain-water lifting systems in the communities.

ran as smoothly as usual but strong opinion on alternatives grid cost money which is difficult this is true, electricity cost have decided for solar connection-designing process. But, on the NGO has shown its interest to build them hybrid connection

## कपडाको मास्क लगाउने तरिका:

- मिचिमिचि कम्तिमा २० सेकेण्ड सावुन-पानीले हात धुने वा स्यानिटाइजरको प्रयोग गर्ने।
- मास्क च्यापिएको छ कि छैन वा सफा छ कि छैन हेर्ने।
- मास्क लगाउँदा ढोरीमा समाई अनुहारमा ठम्मा मिल्ने गरी लगाउने।
- नाक, मुख र च्युडो ढाक्ने गरी लगाउने।
- सकभर मास्कलाई हातले नछुने।
- ढोरी मात्र समाई मास्क फुकाल्ने।
- कपडाको मास्कलाई फेरी प्रयोग गर्न मिल्छ। फुकालेको मास्कलाई सफा र सुक्का हुनेगरी राख्ने।
- मास्क फुकालेपछि सावुन-पानीले मिचिमिचि कम्तिमा २० सेकेण्ड हात धुने वा स्यानिटाइजर प्रयोग गर्ने।
- प्रयोग गरेको मास्कलाई हरेक दिन सावुन-पानीले धुने र घाममा सुकाउने।

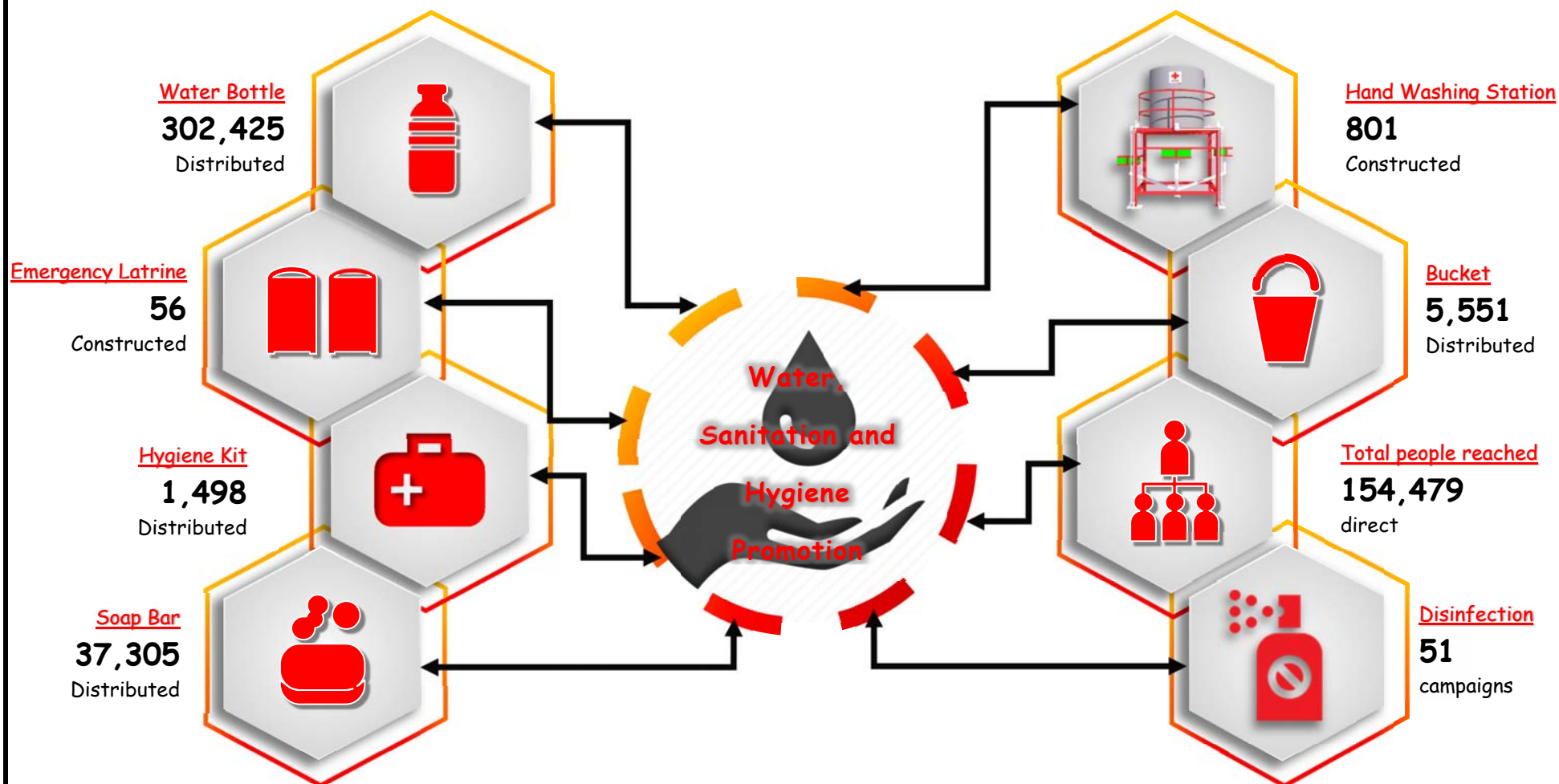
यस अर्काबाट कम्तिमा २ मिटर टाढा बस्ने। बेलाबेलामा सावुन-पानीले मिचिमिचि कम्तिमा २० सेकेण्ड हात धोऔं। घरबाट बाहिर जादा अनिवार्य मास्क लगाऔं।

स्रोत: सुनिसे

नेपाल रेडक्रस सोसाइटी

# WASH

## COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE OPERATION



Update as on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

Source: [https://bit.ly/NRCS\\_COVID19\\_Dashboard](https://bit.ly/NRCS_COVID19_Dashboard)