

# COVID-19

## Preparedness and Response Operation

1 February - 15 November 2020

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Distribution of dignity kit by NRCS Dhading in Tripurasundari Rural Municipality, Ward No. 2, Dhading (Photo: NRCS Dhading)

### CONTEXT

Cumulative incidence rate is 643 per 100,000 population in Nepal which is the second highest in South East Asia Regional countries, Maldives being the highest with the cumulative incident rate of 2146 per 100,000 population. While Democratic People's Republic of Korea has zero reported COVID-19 cases (source: Situation Update #30 - COVID-19 WHO Country Office for Nepal, 11 November 2020). As of 15 November 2020, recovery rate of Nepal is 83 % and over all case fatality rate (CFR) is 0.6% across all ages. However, the CFR increases with age beyond 65 years.

Government reversed its recent decision and has now decided to again provide free treatment and testing through public hospitals and laboratories respectively. And those who can afford to pay can also avail of services at a charge from private hospitals and laboratories. The Ministry has adopted a policy to use antigen-based testing for community or public health interventions and Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for symptomatic cases. The government has established PCR testing facilities in 76 laboratories (44 public and 32 private) throughout the country.

On 15 November, all the 76 districts had at least one active positive case of COVID-19 in Nepal, while Manang district had Zero active case of COVID-19. Hotspots of cases are continuing in the Kathmandu Metropolitan Area, with additional cases found throughout wards and municipalities of Kathmandu valley. In addition, the number of people staying in quarantine centres is decreasing while the number of people in home isolation is increasing particularly in Kathmandu valley districts. One of the key challenges for the home isolation is the implementation of the COVID-19 guideline by the infected person, especially where infected people are living in a rented single room with no separate toilet or kitchen facilities.

The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), within its capacities and mandates to respond as auxiliary to the Government has been working on COVID-19 preparedness and response operation in coordination with Government of Nepal, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Participating National Societies (PNS), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and non -Movement partners as well as other stakeholders.

### Situation Overview (as of 15 November 2020)

	Nepal	Global
Confirmed Cases	209,776	54,372,808
# of patients recovered	173,430	37,904,490
# of people died	1,221	1,318,952
# of people in quarantine	1,021	
# of people in isolation	35,125	15,149,366
#of Countries Affected		216

Source: MOHP situation report

MOHP website; <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>

### VOICE

"I was feeling uncomfortable wearing mask, and was unaware of potential risk of COVID 19. After I received awareness message from NRCS volunteers (UAT) on importance of using protective measures, I have started using mask regularly and will suggest others for proper use of mask to avoid the risk of COVID-19."

A senior citizen shares her experience after receiving COVID-19 awareness message from NRCS volunteer at a newly installed hand washing station by NRCS at Railway Chowk, Sunsari.

# SECTORAL PROGRESS

## 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

- **357,346** personal protective equipment (disposable examination gloves, full body apron, full body PPE set, goggles, face shield, head cover, mask, rubber boot, long tube rubber shoe) distributed
- **3,507** people received psychosocial first aid service/psychosocial support
- **242** ambulances mobilized across the county
- **113** blood transfusion service centres/emergency units functional across the country

#### Training and orientations

- More than 1,800 people reached through remote and physical psychosocial first aid (PFA) training and orientation
- 262 events of Infection Prevention and Control measures orientation conducted

#### Guidelines developed

- COVID-19 response guideline
- Infection, prevention and control guideline



NRCs volunteers provided mask to isolation center at Kirtipur  
(Photo: NRCs Kathmandu)



Orientation on the Infection Prevention and Control measures to the community (Photo: NRCs Sarlahi)



## Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

### Major progress

- **806** hand washing stations established in public places and quarantine sites

### Materials distribution

- **1,830** hygiene kits distributed
- **37,305** bars of soap distributed
- **5,551** buckets distributed
- **1,966** mugs distributed
- **304,391** people have been benefited with drinking water bottle distributed at point of entry, isolation site, quarantine and holding centre.

### Training and orientations

- **45,905** people reached through hygiene promotion activities (hand washing demonstration sessions and practical session)
- More than 40 people from 21 districts were oriented on environment cleaning and disinfection

### Other actions

- **56** emergency toilet/portable toilet constructed in different quarantine sites
- Supported in disinfection of public places including cultural heritage sites, schools, quarantine and holding areas in different districts



A person for community washing hand at hand washing station installed by NRCS (**Photo: NRCS Rupandehi**)



NRCS frontline volunteer disinfecting Trijudda Secondary School in Parsa district (**Photo: NRCS Parsa**)

## Risk Communication and CEA



NRCS volunteer distributing COVID-19 awareness related IEC material to the community people of Dhanusha (**Photo: NRCS Dhanusha**)

### Major progress

- **710,955** IEC materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banner with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed
- **1,044** calls related to COVID-19 received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130
- **161** episodes of Red Cross radio programme aired through different FM stations across the country
- **624** COVID-19 related posts shared in NRCS Facebook site that was viewed 5,609,793 times
- **859** Unit Action Team formed to support and keep record of people entering the community, recognize the threats and keep the community informed with lifesaving message and appropriate referral service.
- NRCS social media volunteering page developed and more than **1,670** youths joined the page as members. NRCS volunteers' activities and awareness messages related to COVID-19 have been shared through this group
- **323** people has been reached through sessions on importance of feedback mechanism and its handling process.

## Protection Gender and Inclusion

### Major progress

#### Services

- 44 districts involved in different activities related to RFL services; NRCS volunteers contacted **508** people arrived from India/other countries
- **78** people supported in their family contact
- **5** people supported in reunification of their family
- **18** street children supported with emergency shelter

#### Materials distribution

- More than **18,000** people including daily wage workers, street children and passengers supported with food in coordination with local authority
- **356** families supported with Combo kit in in Bhulke village of Udayapur district
- **1,081** dignity kit distributed in the quarantine site
- **214** Kishori kit distributed in quarantine site
- **191** community people and **31** quarantined people oriented on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) referral pathway



People from Ward No. 17, Lalitpur Sub Metropolitan City attending orientation session on Social and Gender based violence (**Photo: NRCS Lalitpur**)

#### Training and orientation

- **147** staff/volunteers oriented on PGI
- **180** staff/volunteers trained on SGBV

#### Guidelines developed

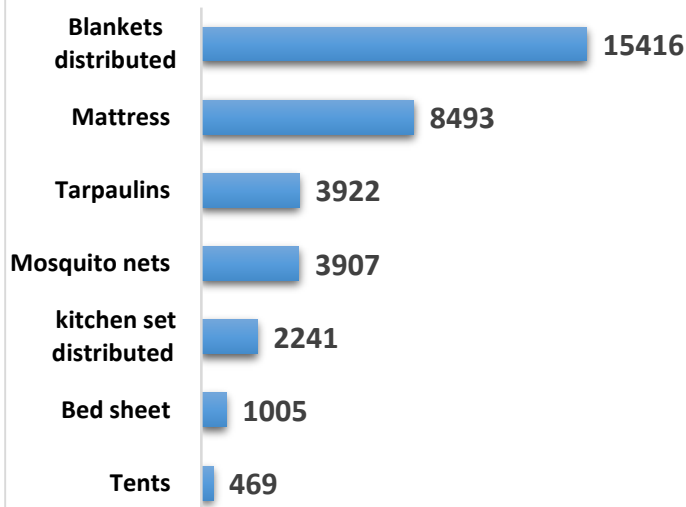
- Rapid guidance for providing RFL service during COVID-19
- Family support combo kit management guideline

## Shelter

### Key Actions

- Supported in quarantine site management including district jails as per necessity
- Supported shelter and non-food relief items to quarantine sites, isolation sites and households in COVID-19 affected area

#### Shelter and non-food relief item distribution





## GOOD PRACTICES

COVID-19 self-declaration and quick contact tracing mechanism has been established at NRCS headquarters for staff and volunteers which has helped to contain COVID-19 infection within the organization to some extent.

Likewise, staff and volunteers have been oriented on infection prevention and control so that they can apply safety measures while providing services in the community.

NRCS has considered COVID-19 prevention and control measures in its all community based programmes, projects and services.

## CHALLENGES

- Low participation of community in COVID-19 related awareness programme due to fear of potential transmission of COVID-19



NRCS volunteer distributed mask to the community following precaution measures (Photo: NRCS Mahotari)

## 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 have been supporting quarantine and isolation sites management including assessment.
- Participation in District Disaster Management Committee meeting in all districts for COVID-19 preparedness and response.
- Participation in health, WASH, PGI and shelter cluster meetings and other meetings such as media interaction programme.

## 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

**Note:** This report has been prepared by PMER-IM –CEA team in consultation with concerned sectors at NRCS headquarters and main sources of information include: 5W report received from NRCS district chapters, and Situation updates from WHO and MOHP HEOC.

## For further information

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- <https://www.facebook.com/nepalredcross/>; <https://twitter.com/NepalRedCross>
- For further details of the information and 5W data please find the link for COVID-19 Dashboard: [Link](#)



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