

COVID-19

Preparedness and Response Operation

1 February - 30 November 2020

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NRCS and Coca Cola handover safety gears to enhance the safety of frontline health workers and ICU ventilators to the Health Minister (Photo: NRCS)

CONTEXT

As of 30th November 2020, the global COVID-19 cases remained 63 million worldwide with 1.8 million active cases and 1.4 million people globally have lost their lives due to COVID-19 related complications. The global recovery rate remained 69 percent with 43 million people being recovered from the COVID-19 infection. In addition, the global vaccine makers are working to develop vaccine against COVID-19 infection. Some of the vaccines such as Pfizer/BioNTech and Oxford University/Astra Zeneca are showing remarkable results up to 95 percent protection against the virus. It is expected that few countries around the globe will start vaccinating their citizens in December 2020.

Government on Nepal reversed its recent decision and has now decided to provide again a free treatment and testing through public hospitals and laboratories respectively. And those who can afford to pay can 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.

All the districts had at least one active positive case of COVID-19 in Nepal, while Manang and Dolpa reported Zero active case of COVID-19 on 30 November 2020. 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 centers 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 30 November 2020)

	Nepal	Global
Confirmed Cases	233,452	63,083,565
# of patients recovered	214,521	43,552,242
# of people died	1,508	1,465,309
# of people in quarantine	535	
# of people in isolation	17,423	18,066,014
#of Countries Affected		216

Source: MOHP situation report

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

VOICE

"We started a campaign named 'Where is your mask?' and distributed masks for the needy people. We established help desk and volunteers were mobilized in hand washing demonstrations. NRCS volunteers, local police, FCHVs, representatives from various organizations participated in the campaign. We distributed 1,800 masks at the time. The campaign has been one of the best example of good coordination with local government and stakeholders."

-Devi Pyakurel, NRCS Dang

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

- **359,546** 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
- As of 30 November 2020, a total of 538 pints plasma were collected and are being supplied for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.
- **7** ventilators, **960** surgical mask, **1,600** KN-95 mask, **550** Coverall with Hoods disposable, **400** goggles, **400** boxes of gloves handed over to Shukraraaj Tropical & Infectious Disease Hospital, Koshi Zonal Hospital, Narayani Sub Regional Hospital, Bharatpur Hospital Pokhara Health science Academy hospital Bheri Zonal Hospital Midwestern Regional Hospital, and Seti Zonal Hospital were handed over.

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 volunteer providing information on COVID-19 and provided mask to visitors at the Help desk **(Photo: NRCS Bara)**



A student sanitizes prior to attending the examination. NRCS volunteer conducted awareness session on COVID-19 in order to ensure that student attending class 12 examination follows safety and protective measure against COVID-19 **(Photo: NRCS Jhapa)**

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

Major progress

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

Materials distribution

- **2,210** hygiene kits distributed
- **37,305** bars of soap distributed
- **5,560** buckets distributed
- **1,966** mugs distributed
- **304,525** people have been benefited with drinking water bottle distributed at point of entry, isolation site, quarantine and holding centre.

Training and orientations

- **51,469** 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

- **57** 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



Hand washing practice for community people in Sisiyadi Bairiya Community in Parsa (Photo: NRCS Parsa)



NRCS installed dust bin at the premises of Ward No. 1, Changunarayan Municipality (Photo: NRCS Bhaktapur)

Risk Communication and CEA



NRCS volunteer distributed mask to the people during Chhat celebration along with the awareness message through its help desk at various celebration point (Photo: NRCS Rautahat)

Major progress

- **737,232** IEC materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banner with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed
- **1,112** calls related to COVID-19 received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130
- **165** episodes of Red Cross radio programme aired through different FM stations across the country
- **662** COVID-19 related posts shared in NRCS Facebook site that was viewed 5,741,323 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

- 20333 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
- **1,122** 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



A child being happy after receiving the support from Red Cross. NRCS have distributed cash support to identified vulnerable children and dignity kit to their parents at various areas (Photo:NRCS Lalitpur)

Training and orientation

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

Guidelines developed

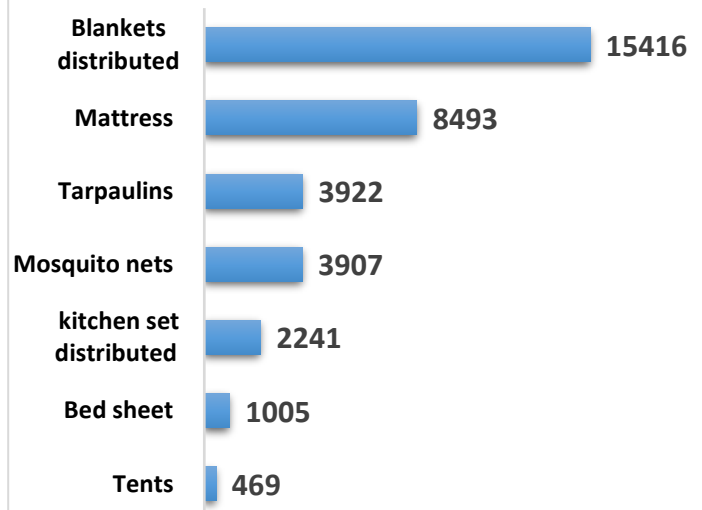
- Rapid guidance for providing RFL service during COVID-19
- Family support combo kit management guideline

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

- NRCS has disseminated awareness on COVID-19 prevention and control measures at various exam center to the students attending exam of class 12 to reduce the potential spread.
- 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.

CHALLENGES

- Low participation of community in COVID-19 related awareness programme due to fear of potential transmission of COVID-19
- The demand of plasma is difficult to meet due to lack of plasma donors availability



News coverage of NRCS intervention in local newspaper
(Photo: NRCS Dang)

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](#)



Nepal Red Cross Society