

COVID-19

Preparedness and Response Operation

1 February - 31 December 2020

Update # 14 Issue date: 3 January 2021



Students washing their hands at the newly constructed hand washing station (Photo: NRCS Kailali)

CONTEXT

December 2020 marked the 12-month presence of COVID-19 in the world. The pandemic has receded the growth of economies around the world in such a way that it might take a few years for the economies to bounce back to the pre-COVID state. As of 31 December, more than 83 million people have been reported to be infected by the infection with 58 million reported to be recovered. However, more than 1.8 million have lost their lives due to COVID-19 infection-related complications. The pandemic can be stated as one of the most difficult situations the global health sector is facing after World War II. As a silver lining, the rollout of the vaccines such as Pfizer/BioNtech and Astra Zeneca/Oxford University providing up to 95 percent protection against COVID-19 has started in the countries like USA, Britain, India, etc. However, countries such as Britain, India are reporting the new variant of coronavirus in the patient with the characteristics to be highly contagious.

Since November 2020, the daily reported COVID-19 infection cases in Nepal are decreasing gradually along with the death rate. On the other hand, the recovery rate is increasing which was 96.8 percent on 31 December 2020. In the meantime, gatherings in the shopping malls, restaurants, etc have increased with people not following the proper precautionary measures. Given the cold weather and lack of proper precautionary measures being followed, the chances of a second wave cannot be negated in Nepal.

As of 31 December, Bagmati province has the highest number of active cases (3,925) with the highest recovery cases (137,827). The lowest number of active cases reported was in Karnali province (132) with 6,285 people being recovered. On 31 December, out of 77 districts Mahottari, Mugu, and Rukum East reported zero active cases of COVID-19. On the contrary, the Kathmandu district continued to be the hotspot with more than 500 active cases.

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 the 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 December 2020)

	Nepal	Global
Confirmed Cases	260,593	83,068,034
# of patients recovered	252,359	58,869,075
# of people died	1,856	1,812,208
# of people in quarantine	362	
# of people in isolation	6,378	22,386,751
#of Countries Affected		216

Source: MOHP situation report

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

VOICE

Rashmila (name changed) says, "A session on referral pathway conducted by NRCS encouraged me to raise voice against violence. In the program, detailed information was shared with us to make complain about any kind of violence. I happily attended the session, now I can share the referral numbers to other people who require such information"

Rashmila and her husband were sustaining their family through daily wages. After being deprived of any work, due to COVID-19 outbreak, the frequency of her husband's coming home being drunk and raising hand on her and children increased. It became a regular activity for him to do so. She expresses her pain with a heavy-hearted face "I feel so helpless as my husband use to beat us every day and I was unable to speak against his behaviour. My neighbour suggested me to report to the police but I have no idea where to go and how to do it". Later she got chance to attend orientation program on sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response conducted by NRCS volunteers, where she came to know about the organization like National Women commission, Nepal Police, Local judiciary committee, etc. With this information suddenly she bears courage to raise her voice against violence. She had warned his husband not to beat her and otherwise she would report against his activities. Now her husband does not beat her and both of them are busy with their work.

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

- **359,563** 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
- **3,637** 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
- **548** pints plasma collected and being supplied for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

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



Information dissemination and mask distribution to the community people by NRCS volunteer in Jumla (Photo: NRCS Jumla)



NRCS volunteer sharing information on IPC measures to the community people in Sunkoshi Rural municipality -6 (Photo: NRCS Sindhuli)

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

Major progress

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

Materials distribution

- **2,497** hygiene kits distributed
- **38,823** bars of soap distributed
- **5,813** buckets distributed
- **1,966** mugs distributed
- **302,425** people have been benefited with drinking water bottle distributed at point of entry, isolation site, quarantine and holding centre.

Training and orientations

- **58,552** 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



NRCS Bajura distributed hygiene kit and dignity kit to community people (Photo: Ishwara Subedi)



Community people of Dailekh learning and enjoying the hand washing session through practical demonstration (Photo: NRCS Dailekh)

Risk Communication and CEA



Students seeing the roadside awareness message on COVID-19 (Photo: NRCS Rupandehi)

Major progress

- **737,232** IEC materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banner with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed
- **1,241** calls related to COVID-19 received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130
- **169** episodes of Red Cross radio programme aired through different FM stations across the country
- **695** COVID-19 related posts shared in NRCS Facebook site that was viewed 5,843,170 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, **501** to people from slum area, female in the central jail
- **214** Kishori kit distributed in quarantine site
- **191** community people and **31** quarantined people oriented on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) referral pathway
- **134** people (that includes 100 LGBTIQ community people, 29 daily wage labour, 5 children whose parents were engaged in the brick kiln) received cash support of 5000 each along with dignity kit
- **13** dependent children of central jail Kathmandu received warm clothes, nutritious food and stationary material

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



NRCS distributed Cash and dignity kit to LGBTIQ community people
(Photo: Puspha Khanal, NRCS HQs)

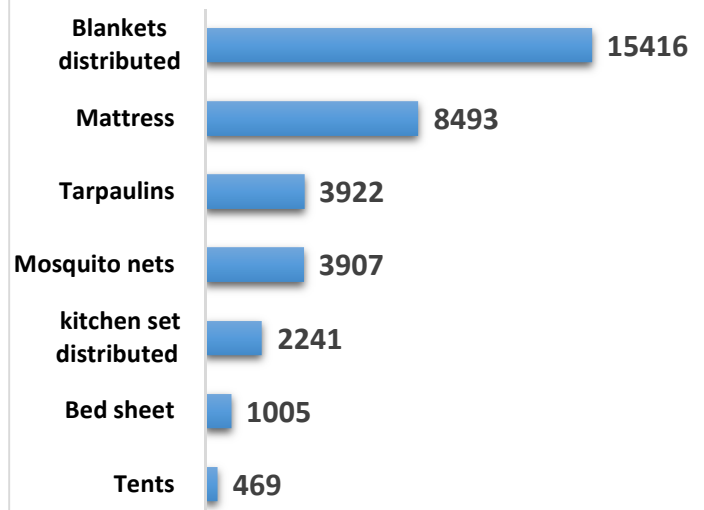
Training and orientation

- **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 and non-food relief item distribution



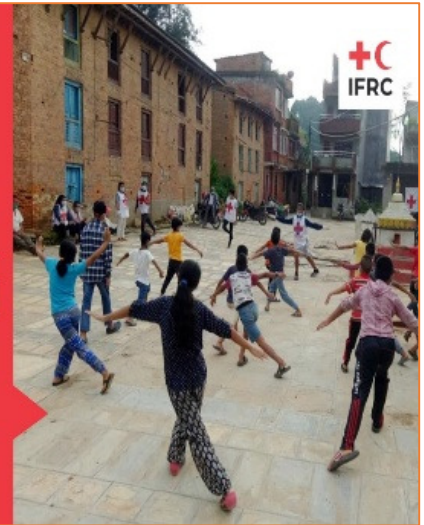
GOOD PRACTICES

- 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.

"For children, being confined in their houses, unable to interact with their friends is probably the worst thing that can happen to them. The mental burden for them is heavy too."

Anisha Mainali, Nepal Red Cross, helped organise COVID-19 sessions for children where they could learn and have fun.

4.3 MILLION
people in Asia and the Pacific have benefited from emotional support as they deal with the impacts of COVID-19.



CHALLENGES

- Despite of the potential risk of COVID-19 spread out, it's being difficult for people to adapt behaviour like wearing mask, maintaining 2 meter distance and other precautionary measures.
- The demand of plasma is difficult to meet due to lack of plasma donors availability

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