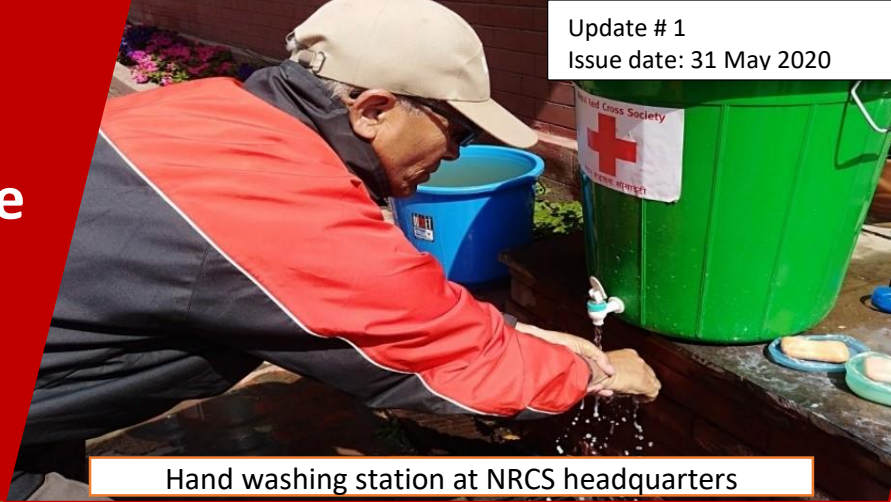


COVID-19

Update # 1
Issue date: 31 May 2020

Preparedness and Response Operation Report

01 February-29 May 2020



Hand washing station at NRCS headquarters

Back ground

As an auxiliary to the Government, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has a unique responsibility and added value when it comes to responding to pandemics. The NRCS has been involving in COVID-19 preparedness and response since early February 2020 in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC).

The National Society together with Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) partners have developed approach paper and consolidated plan for working systematically in COVID-19 preparedness and response operation. Priority sectors for interventions include health and care, water sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), risk communication and community engagement and accountability (RC-CEA), protection gender inclusion (PGI) and shelter.

As of 29 May 2020, the National Society has reached more than **1,160,000** people directly and indirectly through food, ambulance services, awareness raising activities, tents/tarpaulins and non-food relief items (NFRI) restoring family links (RFL), psychosocial first aid, health/help desk, personal protective items, sanitizers, hygiene kits, soaps and information educational and communication (IEC) materials.

COVID-19 awareness messages have been disseminated through Red Cross radio programmes, public service announcement from local FMs and radio stations, micing through megaphone, orientations, NRCS website and social medias such as face book.

Likewise, 133 blood transfusion service (BTS) centres and emergency units are functional across the country.

NRCS headquarters, province offices, 77 district chapters, sub-chapters and junior/youth circles have been involved in preparedness and response activities.

All services have been carried out in close coordination and consultation with the government and other concerned stakeholders at central, provincial and local levels.

Situation Overview (as of 29 May 2020)

	Nepal	Global
Confirmed Cases	1,212	5, 701, 337
# of patients recovered	180	2,000,000
# of people died	6	357, 688
# of people in quarantine	99,336	
# of people in isolation	1,000	
#of Countries Affected		216

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

VOICE

"We have harshly been affected by the lockdown; my husband cannot go out for work. We have no food and no more savings. Also we cannot lend money or borrow food due to pandemic situation. Fortunately, NRCS supported us with rice, dal, oil, salt and hand washing soaps. Thanks Red Cross volunteers who have been supporting us in this difficult time."

- Rita Sharma (a lactating mother), Bhaktapur district, MadhyapurThimi Municipality, Ward No. 2

Sectoral progress



77

districts reached

143 quarantine site,

4 isolation area and

14 health care facilities supported with at least one service

1,160,000

people reached including 642,000 people reached through IEC materials



1,093

volunteers mobilized

Health and care

Major progress

Services:

- 242 ambulances mobilized across the county
- 672 people received psychosocial first aid
- 168 health/help desks managed/supported benefitting more than 33,600 people
- 133 blood transfusion service centre/emergency unit functional across the country.

Materials distribution:

- 262,732 personal protective items (masks, gloves, hazmat suit) distributed across the country
- 33 stretchers provided to quarantine sites in Solukhumbu, Gorkha and Parbat districts
- 2,924 mosquito net distributed
- Medicines/medicated aprons provided to health posts in Kapilvastu, Kavrepalanchowk and Sindhupalchowk
- 15 baby kits provided to health post in Sindhupalchowk

Training and orientations:

- 503 events of orientation sessions conducted on COVID-19 prevention and control for more than 41,400 people
- 1,070 households visited and oriented family members on COVID-19 preventions and control measures
- 148 ambulance drivers oriented on infection, prevention and control

Guidelines developed:

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

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 labourers/workers
- School children,
- People in quarantine centres
- People in prisons
- Public in general
- Red Cross volunteers and staff

CBHFA volunteers in field



NRCS mobilized community based health and first aid (CBHFA) trained volunteers for disseminating COVID-19 related awareness activities at household level in a village of Palpa district.

There are many migrant returnees from India in the village. The Red Cross volunteers in close coordination with local health post have been carrying out home visit, and orienting household members on importance of home quarantine of the migrant people, maintaining social distance, hand washing and seeking medical support in case of any illness.

Photo: Palpa district chapter

Water sanitation and hygiene promotion

Major progress

Services:

- **246** hand washing stations established in public places and quarantine sites
- **39** water tanks established at public places and quarantine sites.

Materials distribution:

- **19,782** bars of soap distributed
- **3,489** buckets with jugs distributed
- **1,820** bottles of sanitizers (100-400 ml each) distributed
- **370** handkerchiefs distributed in quarantine site, health posts and police stations.
- **310** water bottles provide to quarantine sites in Surkhet and Bhaktapur

Training and orientations:

- **752** hand washing demonstration sessions conducted reaching out more than 9,700 people

Other actions:

- Support in disinfection of road and vehicles in different districts



NRCS volunteer disinfecting the vehicles in Madhyapur thimi Bhaktapur.

Photo: NRCS Bhaktapur district chapter

Risk Communication and CEA



NRCS volunteers/staff sharing information about COVID-19 and providing temperature taking services to the people passing through Nuwakot Highway from Kathmandu.

Photo: Kathmandu district chapter

Major progress

- **642,033** IEC materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banner with COVID-19 awareness messages reproduced and distributed
- **414** calls related to COVID-19 were received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130
- **126** episodes of Red Cross radio programme was aired through different FM stations across the country
- **85** events of COVID-19 awareness message dissemination were conducted using loud speaker and rallies conducted
- **264** COVID-19 related posts were done in NRCS Facebook site, that was viewed by 2.4 million times and earned 157,317 reactions.
- **82** tweets posted related to COVID-19 and earned **46,900** impressions
- COVID-19 related rumour tracked through social media and media scanning in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF
- NRCS social media volunteering page developed and **825** youths are members in the page

Protection gender and inclusion

Key actions

Services:

- **19** district chapters involved in RFL services;
 - **504** people traced for COVID-19 testing and supported for their quarantine.
 - **41** people supported for their family contact in Sindhuli, Baitadi, Kalikot and Kailali
- **18** street children were supported with emergency shelter

Materials distribution:

- More than **5,000** people including daily wage workers, street children and passengers supported with food in coordination with local authority in 15 districts
- **663** families supported with cash with the support of Plan International Nepal in Sindhuli district
- **1,300** packets of biscuits distributed to migrant workers returned from India in Darchula district
- **350** families supported with combo kit in in Bhulke village of Udayapur district
- **583** dignity/kishore/sanitary kits/pads distributed
- **362** body bags supported to security and hospitals

Training and orientations:

- **63** staff/volunteers who are involving in COVID-19 oriented on PGI

Guidelines developed

- Rapid guidance for providing RFL service during COVID-19



NRCS provided combo kit (rice, dal, cooking oil, salt bath soap..) to **350** families in Bhulke village in Udayapur.

Photo: Salim Khan

Shelter key actions

- Support in quarantine site management
- Support shelter and non-food relief items to quarantine sites, isolation sites and households in COVID-19 affected area.

Shelter

Red Cross at door step



NRCS Biruwaguthi sub-chapter president handed over the NFRI package to family affected by wind/storm during COVID-19 lock down period in Parsa.

Photo: Rajan Srivastav , NRCS Parsa district chapter

Shelter and non-food relief

Emergency kit	5
Kitchen set	79
Bed	83
Bowl	88
NFRI set	96
Tent	376
Bed sheet	765
Tarpaulin	1,518
Mattress	1,645
Blanket	11,553
	Number

Good practices and innovation

- Spontaneous mobilization of staff and volunteers at districts
- Working closely with authorities at the local, province and federation level
- Mobilization of local resources; district chapters, sub-chapters, local disaster management units and champion groups have been mobilizing their emergency fund as well as approaching to local authorities, non-government organizations and private sector for cash and in-kind resources for COVID-19 preparedness and response.
- Development and use learning platform for psychosocial first aid and initial rapid assessment trainings
- Production of masks and sanitizers by district chapters
- Digital transformation: NRCS staff and volunteers are using the online media to for coordination, assessment, planning, reporting and management

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: Sources of this report are NRCS, WHO and MOHP HEOP daily situation updates and contains consolidated achievement of the NRCS at all levels based on the information provided by the district chapters and departments.

For Detail information

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www.nrcs.org; <https://www.facebook.com/nepalredcross/>; <https://twitter.com/NepalRedCross>



Preparation of local sanitizers by NRCS Kathmandu district chapter volunteers at Tarakeshwor Municipality.

Photo: NRCS Kathmandu district chapter

Coordination and collaboration

- All Red Cross actions related to COVID-19 are in line with GoN MOPH, HEOC guideline and initiatives.
- NRCS province offices, district chapters and sub-chapters have remained in close contact with the local authorities and supporting in their plan for quarantine and isolation sites assessment, establishment and management as well surveillance and contact tracing.
- Participation in district disaster management committee meeting in all districts
- Participation in health, WASH, PGI and shelter cluster meetings and other meetings such as media interaction programme.