

# COVID-19

## Preparedness and Response Operation

1 February-15 August 2020

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Children attending the practical session of PSS session conducted by NRCS Thaiba subchapter, Lalitpur (Photo: NRCS Thaiba Subchapter)

### BACKGROUND

As of 15 August 2020, out of 77 districts of Nepal, Dolpa, Humla, Manang, Mustang and Sankhuwashaba have reported no new cases of COVID-19 infection along with all the infected people being recovered. As part of widening scope of testing, Nepal Government has established testing facilities in 39 stations throughout the nation.

Nepal is fifth among the eight South-Asian countries with 26,019 cases of infection. India tops the chart with more than 2.5 million infection followed by Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan (WHO COVID-19 situation report- 208 of 15 August 2020). Considering increasing number of cases, local government has enforced restriction measures and even lockdown in different places in Nepal.

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has been involving in COVID-19 preparedness and response since early February 2020 in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), and Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC). NRCS provincial and district chapters are engaged in various activities: food distribution, quarantine management, ambulance services, awareness raising activities, tents/tarpaulins and non-food relief items (NFRI) distribution, restoring family links (RFL), psychosocial first aid, health/help desk, and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitizers, hygiene kits, soaps and information educational and communication (IEC) materials. The NRCS frontline workers are also ensured with the safety and security measures including insurance provision. Along with COVID-19, NRCS is also involved in monsoon preparedness and response activities.

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

	Nepal	Global
Confirmed Cases	26,019	21,026,758
# of patients recovered	17,201	
# of people died	102	755,786
# of people in quarantine	14,448	
# of people in isolation	8716	
#of Countries Affected		216

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

### VOICE

I was a daily wage earner, but when lock-down started, I could not get any work. Meanwhile, Red Cross supported me with a sewing machine and I have started sewing face masks. This gives me a good earning enough to feed my four-member family. Now, I can also help other people as well.

-Mina Chhinnotola, Single woman  
Bhaktapur Municipality-2,  
Community volunteer

# SECTORAL PROGRESS

**77** districts reached



**1,342,443**

People reached including  
**696,842** people reached  
through IEC materials



**1,952**

Volunteers  
mobilized

## 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

- **247** ambulances mobilized across the county
- **2,078 people** received psychosocial first aid service
- **113** blood transfusion service centre/emergency unit functional across the country.

#### Materials distribution

- **328,648 personal** protective items (masks, gloves, hazmat suit) distributed across the country

#### Training and orientations

- **216,724** people reached through COVID-19 awareness session, community orientation, door to door visit and help desk.
- **356** trained on psychosocial first aid online.
- **197** NRCS staff and volunteers including ambulance drivers, blood transfusion service staff and volunteers, and other frontline staff and volunteers trained on infection prevention and control.

#### Guidelines developed

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



NRCS volunteer involved in disinfection of public areas in Pokhara Metropolitan City (Photo: NRCS Kaski)



NRCS volunteer providing information on COVID-19 through door to door visit along with mask distribution (Photo: NRCS Lalitpur)

## Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

### Major progress

#### Services

- **766** hand washing stations established in public places and quarantine sites
- **114,708** people returning from India were aided with drinking water at border site
- **8,561** people reached through hygiene promotion activities (hand washing demonstration sessions and practical session)

#### Materials distribution

- **35,501** bars of soap distributed
- **4,648** buckets with jugs distributed
- **4,083** bottles of sanitizers (100-500 ml each) distributed

#### Other actions

- **45** emergency toilets constructed in different quarantine sites.
- Supported in disinfection of public places including the cultural heritage sites, schools, quarantine and holding areas, port of entry, road and vehicles in different districts



Children attending hand washing demonstration session conducted in Lalitpur (Photo: NRCS Thaiba Subchapter)

## Risk Communication and CEA



NRCS Parsa has flex in local language and displayed in key public places such as medical shops and other places to promote awareness against the COVID-19 infection (Photo: Parsa District Capter)

### Major progress

- **696,842** IEC materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banner with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed
- **663** calls related to COVID-19 were received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130

## Protection Gender and Inclusion

### Major progress

#### Services

- **44** district involved in different activities related to RFL services; NRCS volunteer contacted **508** people arrived from India/other countries
- **77** people supported for their family contact
- **4** persons supported for their reunification with their family
- **18** street children supported with emergency shelter
- **47** chronic patient of cancer, kidney disease and diabetics were supported with medicine.

#### Materials distribution

- **17,933** people including daily wage workers, street children and who were coming back to Nepal from India via land, supported with meal and other ready to eat food such as biscuits, noodles and meal in coordination with local authority
- **356 families** supported with Combo kit in in Bhulke village of Udayapur district and Syangja, Gandaki
- **1,081** dignity Kit distributed in the quarantine site
- **214** Kishore Kit distributed in quarantine site
- **394** dead body bags supported to security forces, district disaster management committee, and hospitals

#### Training and orientation

- **115** staff/volunteers oriented on PGI
- **90** volunteers trained on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV)
- **70** staff/volunteers oriented on SGBV programme concept and implementation strategy

#### 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, non-food relief and food items to quarantine sites, isolation sites and households in COVID-19 affected area.
- Monsoon preparedness and COVID-19 response activities are going in a parallel way.



Distribution of dignity kits to women residing in quarantine site of Kalikot, after the awareness raising session on COVID-19 and WASH, which was held in support of Community Empowerment for Health Promotion Program *(Photo: NRCS Kalikot)*

### Other support related to PGI

- People supported with transportation facility to return to their house in different districts
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) referral message airing/broadcasting through radio and television



Food distribution to the affected families in Khotang district

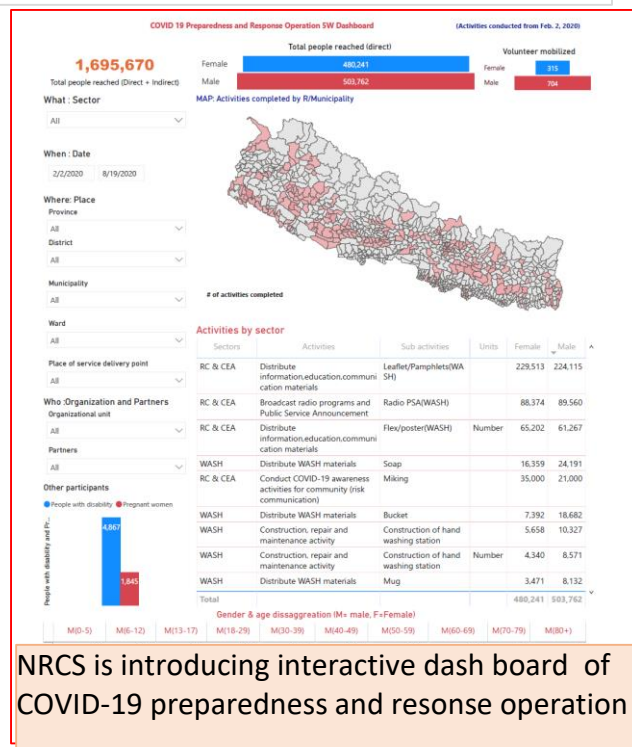
*(Photo: NRCS Khotang)*

## Shelter and non-food relief items distribution

Blanket		<b>14,672</b>
Mattress		<b>7,850</b>
Mosquito		<b>3,546</b>
Tarpaulin		<b>2,260</b>
Bed Sheet		<b>870</b>
Tent		<b>449</b>

## GOOD PRACTICE AND INNOVATION

- NRCS has introduced interactive dashboard for visualizing information of COVID-19 preparedness and response.
- NRCS staff and volunteers have been capturing stories of people involving in /or benefitted from the COVID-19 preparedness and response regularly since the beginning of the operation. NRCS is planning to launch an electronic version of the story book on NRCS Day on 4 September 2020.
- Integration of COVID-19 preparedness and response activities in existing different programmes, projects and services in line with consolidated plan.



NRCS is introducing interactive dash board of COVID-19 preparedness and response operation



“Where is your mask?” awareness campaign conducted by NRCS Khotang together with local stakeholders to sensitize community on importance of using mask (Photo: NRCS Khotang)

With joint effort of District Administration Office, District Police Office, Diktel Rupakot Majuwagadhi Municipality and Chamber of Commerce and Industry, NRCS Khotang district chapter launched "Where is your mask campaign?" to reduce the risk of COVID-19 through dissemination of public awareness message. In Diktel, the district headquarters of Khotang. The campaign was started from 5 August 2020.

## CHALLENGES

- Potential risk of COVID-19 to volunteers during door to door visit has limited the COVID-19 awareness activities.
- It has been difficult to avoid double counting of people reached by the NRCS services as many of them have received multiple services such as psychosocial support, hygiene, water.

## 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 daily situation updates from WHO and MOHP HEOC.

## For further information

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