

# COVID-19

## Preparedness and Response Operation

1 February-31 August 2020

Update # 7 Issue date: 11 September 2020

Nepal Red Cross Society has supporting women and young girls with dignity kits, hygiene materials and awareness on proper hand washing (Photo: NRCS Siraha)



### BACKGROUND

Government of Nepal has suspended all domestic and international flights since 22 March, as well as sealed all borders with India and China. The suspension of domestic flights will be effective until 16 September 2020 however international flights will resume from 1 September 2020 applicable with various precautionary measures.

There is increasing trend of positive cases and number of deaths in Nepal particularly in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts. In between 14 August to 31 August, highest number of positive cases detected was 1,221 cases on 30 August. In the same day, the Government tested 12,717 samples for COVID-1 in 46 testing facilities established by the Government. As of 31 August 2020, 45.4 per cent (17,518) of the cases are active cases, 54 per cent (20,822) have already recovered and 0.6 per cent (221) of the total cases died. Nepal is among the countries which have low recovery rate in the South Asian region where Sri Lanka has the highest recovery rate of 95.1 per cent followed by Pakistan, India and Afghanistan (Government of Nepal, daily situation report, 31 August 2020). Considering increasing number of cases Government of Nepal has continued the restriction measures and even lockdown in different places in Nepal. During this period, only stores selling essential food items and pharmaceuticals are open.

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has been involved in COVID-19 preparedness and response since early February 2020 in coordination with the Ministry of Health (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), restoring family links, psychosocial first aid, health/help desk, 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 along with insurance provision. Along with COVID-19, NRCS is also involved in monsoon preparedness and response activities.

### Situation Overview (as of 31 August 2020)

	Nepal	Global
Confirmed Cases	39,460	25,406,588
# of patients recovered	21,410	17,716,766
# of people died	228	850,878
# of people in quarantine	7,337	
# of people in isolation	17,822	6,838,944
#of Countries Affected		216

Source: MOHP situation report

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

### VOICE

Jyoti Majhi, 3 years old and Suraj Patell, 6 years old are from two separate and living with their grandmothers. Each of the grandmothers received cash support (NPR 5,000) from Red Cross for buying nutritious food for the children. They said that it had been very challenging to feed nutritious food to the grandchildren due to poor economic condition. Also their earnings have been disrupted due to pandemic. After receiving the cash, the grandmothers said, 'Now we can utilize this money for buying food and essential items for our children.'

(Unit Action Team in Rautahat and identified these families. In-coordination with Ward Office and managed immediate support of NPR 5000 to each family with the support of Red Cross/UNICEF)

# SECTORAL PROGRESS

**77** districts reached



**1,495,040**

People reached including  
**698,452** people reached  
through IEC materials



**1,969**

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
- **2,440** people received psychosocial first aid service
- Promoted peer to peer psychosocial support practice in community.
- **113** blood transfusion service centre/emergency unit functional across the country

#### Materials distribution

- **333,910** personal protective items (masks, gloves, hazmat suit) distributed across the country

#### Training and orientations

- **345,628** people reached through COVID-19 orientation sessions (community orientation, school orientation, door to door visit, help desk, miking) on COVID-19 preventions and control measures

#### Guidelines developed

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



Peer to peer psychosocial support organized in the community by NRCS volunteers in Surkhet district (**Photo: NRCS Surkhet**)

## Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

### Major progress

#### Services

- 793 hand washing stations established in public places and quarantine sites

#### Materials distribution

- 700 hygiene kits distributed
- 36,189 bars of soap distributed
- 4,691 buckets distributed
- 1,934 mugs distributed

#### Training and orientations

- 10,748 people reached through hygiene promotion activities (hand washing demonstration sessions and practical session)

#### 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



WASH awareness session organized to NRCS staff/volunteers on who have been mobilized in the community (Photo: NRCS Rasuwa)



Practical hand washing demonstration during hygiene promotion orientation (Photo: NRCS Baitadi)

## Risk Communication and CEA

रक्तदान. जीवनदान ।

माया दसाउनुहोस् ।  
रक्तदान गर्नुहोस् ।



आज रक्तदान गर्ने तपाईंको पालो ।  
आउनुहोस् जीवन बचाऔं ।

NRCS has requested everyone to donate blood and organized blood donation camps through various means to cope with crises of blood supply (Photo: NRCS HQs)

### Major progress

- 698,452 IEC materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banner with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed
- 731 calls related to COVID-19 were received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130
- 134 episodes of Red Cross radio programme was aired through different FM stations across the country
- 495 COVID-19 related posts shared in NRCS Facebook site that was viewed 51,49,212 times
- NRCS social media volunteering page developed and 1,600 youths are members in this page. NRCS volunteers' activities and awareness messages related to COVID-19 have been spreading through this group

## Protection Gender and Inclusion

### Major progress

#### Services

- **44** district involved in different activities related to Restoring Family Link (RFL) services; NRCS volunteer contacted **508** people arrived from India/other countries
- **78** people supported in family contact
- **5 people support to reunification their family**
- **77** people supported in family contact
- **18** street children supported with emergency shelter

#### Materials distribution

- **18,012** (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
- **1081** dignity Kit distributed in the quarantine site
- **214** Kishori Kit distributed in quarantine site

#### Training and orientation

- **147** staff/volunteers oriented on PGI
- **166** staff/volunteers trained on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV)

#### Guidelines developed

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



NRCS Parsa supported Kamala Thapa, resident of Bajhang district, to reunite with her family. She was staying in holding center (Trijudda Schoo) of Birgunj for a month **(Photo: NRCS Parsa)**

#### Other support on PGI

- People supported with transportation facility to return to their house in different districts
- Sexual and gender based violence referral message airing/broadcasting through radio and television

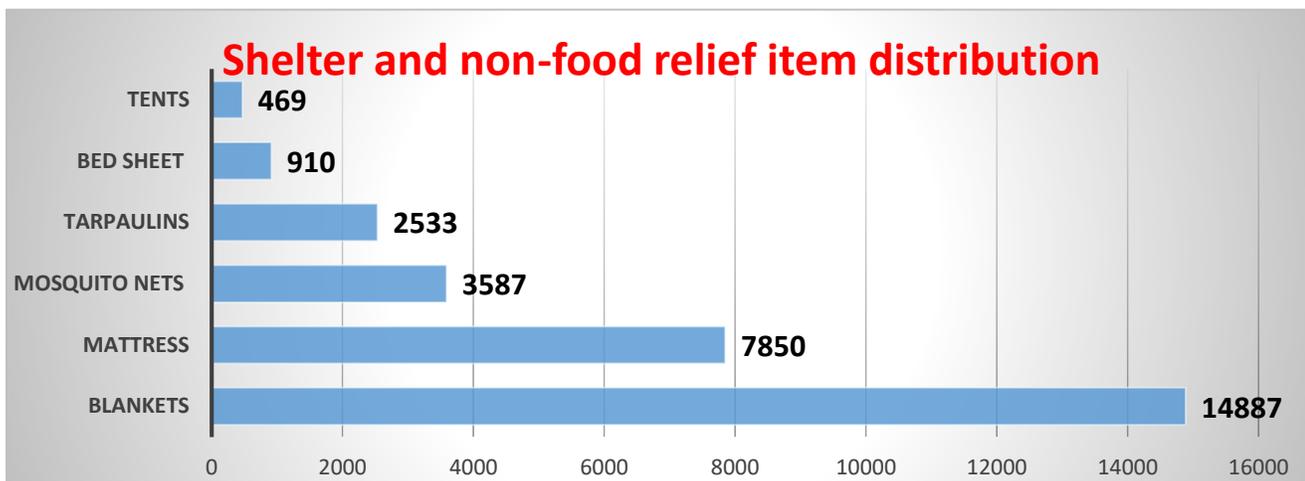
## Shelter

### 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
- The existing evacuation sites constructed by NRCS with support of the local government have been used as a quarantine sites in Dang and Udayapur districts

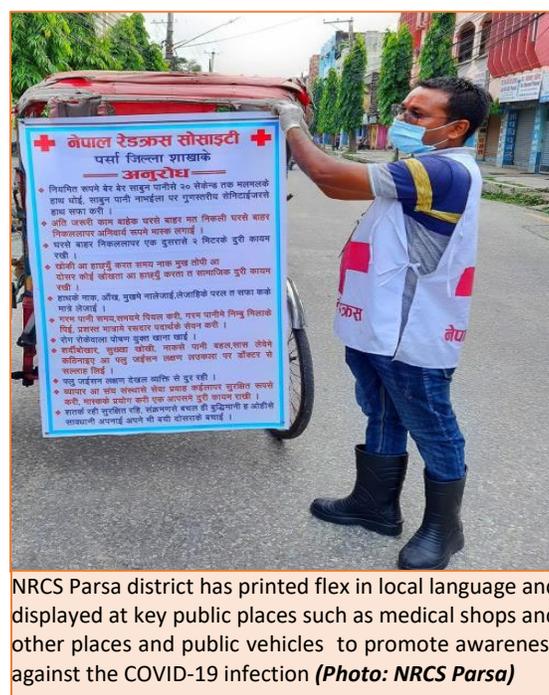


NRCS Bhaktapur supported blankets, buckets, mugs, mattress and rope to Metropolitan Police, Thimi for constructing 20 bed isolation center in Sanothimi Bhaktapur **(Photo: NRCS Bhaktapur)**



## GOOD PRACTICES

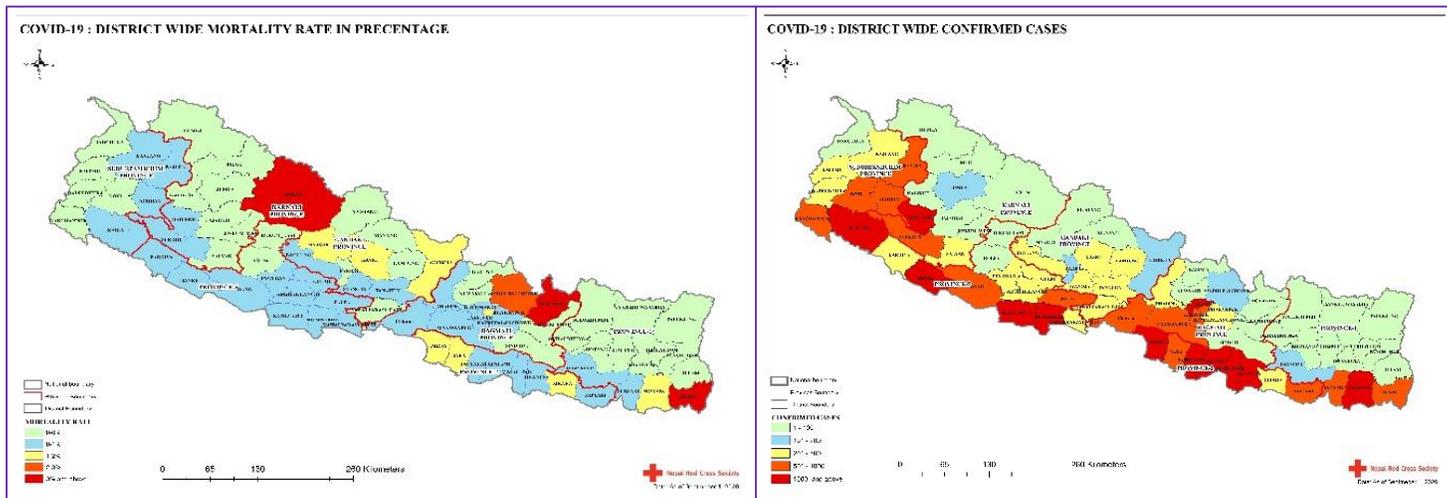
- NRCS has been disseminating COVID-19 awareness message in local languages to benefit the people who speak local language only.
- Use of public vehicle for displaying awareness message has increased possibility of reaching more people in community.
- Despite of high risk of exposure to COVID-19, NRCS volunteers and staff have actively been providing services to people at community, isolation and quarantine site.
- Safety and security of staff and volunteers have been considered in office operation modality of NRCS.
- Transportation services have been activated for blood donors in some districts to motivate the people for donating blood.



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

## 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 are 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.
- NRCS has maintained bilateral collaboration with Coco Cola and UNICEF for COVID-19 Preparedness and Response.



Map displaying: district wide mortality rate (left) and district wide confirmed cases (right) of COVID-19

## CHALLENGES

- There is potential risk of COVID-19 transmission to the frontline responders despite of use of personal protective items. This has set back on implementation of the COVID-19 response activities on time in the target area such as communities and quarantine sites.
- Because of lock down/ travel restriction and potential risk of COVID-19 spread, remote working modality has been adopted at headquarters which requires maximum use of virtual means such as social medias, telephone, zoom and Microsoft Teams for coordination, monitoring, management, orientations and trainings. It is difficult to ensure active participation of people in the online meetings and assess effectiveness of the trainings.

## 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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