BACKGROUND
The suspended international flights have resumed from 2 September 2020, whereas domestic flights and long route travel will start from 17 September 2020 along with hotels and restaurants. Prior to this, the Government of Nepal on 9 September announced the loosening of the lockdown for Kathmandu valley with shopping mall and luxury goods stores allowed to operate three days a week i.e. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. Apart from that, the Government has made it mandatory to have a negative PCR test result along with a permit from Chief District Officer to enter Kathmandu Valley from other districts outside valley. In addition, on 14 September the Government announced that the closing of the land point of entries will be continued until 16 October 2020. There are only few border points through which Nepali citizens are allowed to enter Nepal.

As of 15 September 2020, out of 861,780 reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tested cases/samples, 56,788 have been confirmed positive and remaining 804,992 have been tested negative. Out of total positive cases, 40,638 have already recovered and the remaining 15,779 cases are under treatment as per COVID-19 treatment standard of the Ministry of Health and Population. A total of 371 people has lost their life due to COVID-19 which is 40 per cent increase in compare to 31 August 2020. As of 15 September 2020, 71 per cent of the infected have recovered with 27.8 per cent active cases being treated in different hospitals or home isolation following the GoN home isolation guidelines. In terms of recovery rate of the COVID-19 infection, Nepal has a recovery rate of 71.6 per cent which is one of the lowest recovery rate in the South Asian regions where Sri Lanka has the highest recovery rate of 92.1 per cent followed by Pakistan, Afghanistan and Maldives.

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 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), 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.

Situation Overview (as of 15 September 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nepal</th>
<th>Global</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed Cases</td>
<td>56,788</td>
<td>29,59,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of patients recovered</td>
<td>40,638</td>
<td>21,286,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of people died</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>932,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of people in quarantine</td>
<td>7,250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of people in isolation</td>
<td>15,779</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Countries Affected</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

VOICE
Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) awareness for suicide prevention

“This session on suicide prevention has provided us insight on the global to local scenario of suicide during COVID-19 crisis; motivating us to provide psychosocial care and support to the distressed people”.

-Surya Prasad Dhakal, Chairman NRCS Gandaki province (Participant of the orientation session)

While the world has been terrified with the potential impact of COVID-19, the rate of suicide has increased at an alarming rate. NRCS with years of experience in First Aid service has now expanded its services with PFA during this pandemic, promoting PFA service for suicide prevention. A team of experts has been developed to respond to the people in need remotely or through telephone and any possible virtual means in the present situation. NRCS marked ‘World Suicide Prevention week’ with technical support from KOSHISH Nepal. NRCS conducted five events of suicide prevention sessions to its staff and volunteers from 8-11 September. The objective of the session was to enhance the knowledge and skills on identifying the warning sign of suicide thereby providing knowledge about the suicide prevention intervention.
### SECTORAL PROGRESS

**77 districts reached**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People reached including</th>
<th>1,532,508</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>699,294 people reached through IEC materials</td>
<td>1,969 Volunteers mobilized</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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

### Major progress

**Services**
- 247 ambulances mobilized across the county
- 676 people received psychosocial first aid service
- 284 people reached through PFA service as of care for staffs and volunteer
- 113 blood transfusion service centre/emergency unit functional across the country

**Materials distribution**
- 336,378 personal protective (disposable examination gloves, full body apron, full body PPE set, goggles, face shield, head cover, mask, rubber boot, long tube rubber shoe) distributed

**Training and orientations**
- 1385 people reached through remote and physical psychosocial first aid (PFA) training and orientation
- 434 people reached through PFA online training.
- 15 people including 2 female staff and volunteer from Bhaktapur RC were trained in CICT. The trained was facilitated by medical team of KU. CICT self-paced training. NRCS is planning to collaborate with them for the implementation of CT in other districts too
- IPC training to more than 40 volunteers including focal person of 21 district chapter

### Guidelines developed
- COVID-19 response guideline
- Infection, prevention and control guideline

NRCS volunteer taking group photo after receiving orientation on COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing (ICT) (Photo: NRCS Bhaktapur)

NRCS Dailekh distributed mask to the community people that were made by local mother’s group under COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Operation (Photo: Hemanta KC, focal person NRCS Dailekh)
**Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion**

**Major progress**

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

**Materials distribution**
- **707** hygiene kits distributed
- **36,369** bars of soap distributed
- **4,753** buckets distributed
- **1,962** mugs distributed
- **100,422** bottled water distributed at holding centres, quarantine sites and household level

**Training and orientations**
- **44,411** people reached through hygiene promotion activities (hand washing demonstration sessions and practical session)
- More than **40** people of **21** districts were oriented on Environment cleaning and Disinfection

**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 in different districts

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**Risk Communication and CEA**

**Major progress**

**699,294** IEC materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banner with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed

**808** calls related to COVID-19 were received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130

**142** episodes of Red Cross radio programme was aired through different FM stations across the country

**538** COVID-19 related posts shared in NRCS Facebook site that was viewed **5,325,179** times

**NRCS social media volunteering page developed and more than 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
- 180 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

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

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
GOOD PRACTICES

- NRCS has initiated blood collection for plasma therapy to the support treatment of COVID-19 patients. An agreement between NRCS and Nepal Medical Association has been made to move forward in cooperation with the establishment of a plasma bank.
- NRCS has conducted series of orientation session on suicide prevention to sensitize and motivate NRCS volunteers and staff.

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.
Unconditional cash assistance provided to 14 families

NRCS Nuwakot has provided unconditional cash assistance to 14 families from three different wards of Myang Rural Municipality (RM). The beneficiaries were recommended by the RM based upon their existing vulnerabilities. The support was provided to households with disabled, minors who have lost their families, pregnant women, single women, chronically ill and senior citizens (Photo: NRCS Nuwakot)

CHALLENGES

- There is potential risk of COVID-19 transmission to the frontline responder despite of use of personal protective items. This has some setbacks on implementation of the COVID-19 response activities on time in the target areas.
- Because of lock down/ travel restriction and potential risk of COVID-19 spread, remote working modality has been adopted at headquarters which is resulting difficulty in ensuring active participation of people in the online meetings and assess effectiveness of the trainings.
- Difficulty in use of defined monitoring tools to track district response on COVID-19.

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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