

WASH NEWSLETTER

Demonstration of proper hand washing technique by community women
PC: Hira Bishwokarma, Dailekh

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COVID-19 and Monsoon Preparedness and Response Operation

✖ Background

In Nepal, Kathmandu valley continued to report highest number of COVID-19 positive cases per day until this report has been prepared. Rate of infection is higher in age group between 21-40. Altogether 34.7 percent (87,338) of the total infected in Nepal are female and 65.3 percent (164,354) are male.

Currently, NRCS is working on multiple disaster situation such as monsoonal flood, landslide and the COVID-19 situation has added a new challenge which may become further problematic in this coming winter especially for chronic health patients and elderlies as warned by Nepal health experts. In this risky season, we all need to re-consider safety and security measures against COVID-19. Lockdown and movement restriction somehow had minimized the risk of COVID-19 transmission and death toll but as the economic activity had been paralyzed so to revive nationwide economy, government re-opened most of offices, allowing business and industries to operate in a full-fledged. NRCS has also re-operated office in full-fledged from 23 November 2020 by following the safety and security rule. All the developmental projects have been given green signal by the management of NRCS to operate its activities following the Safety and Security Norms of NRCS developed by Duty and Care Team. Thus, we have to be extra vigilant while working in office following all the precautions as well as the norms set for the pandemic. It is also imperative that the National Society consider the safety of its staff and volunteers from exposure in the line of duty.

Being leading volunteer-based humanitarian actor in the country, NRCS has been playing an important role on COVID-19 preparedness and response operation in coordination with different stakeholders. NRCS is actively engaged in various WASH activities such as disinfecting, quarantine management, awareness raising activities supporting personal protective equipment (PPE) to frontline workers, distribution of sanitizers, hygiene kits, soaps and information dissemination on safety behaviors, facilitating community on infection prevention and control measures, and help to prevent misinformation, rumors, panic and stigmatization.

✖ Monsoon response wrap-up update

Monsoon 2020 caused massive flood and landslides over the span of June to late September and affected more than 40 districts across the country. People lost their lives, livelihood, shelter, WASH facilities and health services compelling them to stay in the camps. NRCS has been implementing Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF), Monsoon Response Program across 15 most affected districts namely Achham, Arghakhanchi, Baglung, Bajura, Darchula, Dolakha, Dhading, Gulmi, Jajarkot, Kailali, Kalikot, Lamjung, Myagdi, Sankhuwasabha and Sindhupalchok in partnership with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

NRCS together with local authority carried out detail assessment and based on the received data, NRCS implemented DREF relief programs to the most affected 15 districts providing relief services in shelter, WASH, livelihood, health and PGI sectors. The relief program has been implementing in an integrated approach covering the gaps outlined by the household survey. DREF operation mandate is a short term relief program and has to be closed by this December after winterization support. Still there is a huge need for integrated response focusing on shelter, WASH, livelihood and health. Most of the beneficiaries' still have no option except temporary shelter (camps) in this winter, as most of the camps were corroded and need to be replaced. Some people returned to their original place from evacuation site but others were sent to their new settlements. People have been living in the camps miserably and are vulnerable to COVID 19 pandemic. They need significant winter clothing, additional food items and WASH facilities.

Situation Overview (as of 17 December 2020)

Description	Nepal	Global
# of confirmed cases	251,692	74,346,881
# of patients recovered	2,40,363	42,084,095
# of death	1,749	1,651,736
# of people in isolation	9,580	20,496,377
#of countries affected	191	
(click for updates): https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/ https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html		

Statistical Situation: Summary as of 30 November, 2020

Dead	384
Missing	100
Injured	144
Displaced Families	9,626
Affected Families	23,478
Houses Destroyed	
Fully	5,125
Partially	7,457
WASH items distributed	
Hygiene kit	1,969
Emergency toilet set	135
Aqua tab	64,500
Soap	9,840
Bucket	2,032

✦ NRCS initiation

Emergency WASH SoPs development

NRCS started implementing Emergency WASH activities since 2009 A.D. Before that, NRCS had no direct intervention in emergency but cooperated other agencies including RCRC movement partners in delivering relief items to the affected population. NRCS distributed WASH relief kits supported by IFRC, PNSs, UNICEF and many other WASH stakeholders. NRCS felt the need of direct intervention in the communities during emergency thus a guiding document was produced in 2011 A.D. as NRCS Emergency Water and Sanitation Framework. Emergency capacity development started in NRCS along with the development of the framework.

Understanding the need of prompt response during emergencies, WASH division has developed standard operating procedures (SoPs) for different WASH relief kits. The SoPs has been standardized after consultation with IFRC country office. The objective of standardizing WASH relief kits SoPs is to bring uniformity during procurement of WASH relief kits by different departments within the society. The SoPs abide each department along with IFRC and PNSs to have uniformity in the WASH relief kits.

WASH division has developed SoPs for Hygiene kit (in general emergencies), Hygiene Kit (for emergencies where there requires quarantine/isolation), household water treatment, diarrhea prevention and menstrual hygiene management. The SoPs include their specific design, detail specification, quantity of items, distribution mechanism, post distribution monitoring, prepositioning of kit, endorsement and revision of the kit.

✦ Success Story

With people for people



Distribution of hygiene kit to the affected
(PC: Laxmi Karki, Sankhuwasabha)

Multiple communities have been affected by landslides in various districts during this monsoon. 106 households of Budhabare, Sili-chong rural municipality in Sankhuwasabha district was not an exception.

Sujata Bajracharya, one of the beneficiary stated that after the landslide Red Cross was there with the relief items. She was amazed to see hygiene items also being distributed along with NFRIs. She was really emotional that Red Cross was thoughtful even for personal hygiene.

Mr. Saroj Bajracharya stated, "Along with NFRIs, we have also supported household with fully damaged latrine with NPR 40,000 for latrine construction and 500 liter capacity water tank for water storage."

Relief at the time of hurt

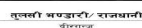
Landless people are inhabiting nearby streams (*Kharar khola* and *Sauti khola*) of Dharan sub metropolitan city. Because of lockdown daily life is crippled and hand to mouth became difficult for them. They somehow managed food by themselves but were unable to buy necessary sanitary and hygiene items in this COVID-19 pandemic.

Program targeted to Anfa quarantine community and COVID-19 preparedness and response program through NRCS Sunsari district chapter in Dharan sub metropolitan ward no 17 brought rays of hope for them. This program has distributed sanitation and hygiene kit to marginalized group especially female, disable people, senior citizen and landless people.

People always remember NRCS support in these difficult time as clear as their saying "*Ahat ko bela rahat*" that means they breathe the air of relief by this help of Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS). They never back-down to thank NRCS for understanding their difficult situation and helping them when in need.



Distribution of hygiene kit
(PC: NRCS, Sunsari)

[illegible][illegible]

**NRCS volunteer distributing WASH materials to HP staff
(PC: Sameer Awasti, NRCS, Myagdi)**



♥ Show love, #stayHome ♥

 Nepal Red Cross Society

A person wearing a full-body yellow protective suit, a hood, and a face mask is using a long-handled spray nozzle to disinfect blue-painted concrete benches. The person is also wearing purple gloves. The room has pink walls decorated with small cartoon stickers (a cow, a cat, a peach, and an ice cream cone). There are two large windows with black metal bars. The spray from the nozzle is visible as a fine mist.

Demonstration of proper hand washing methods in Laxmi Secondary School by NRCS volunteers (PC: NRCS, Jhapa)

✖ Resilience, what next ?

COVID-19: next step towards community resilient

Nepal Red Cross Society, as an auxiliary to government, has been involved in COVID-19 Preparedness and Response program since its inception with “whole of society approach”. NRCS has its own COVID-19 National Approach Paper and National Preparedness and Response plan that comprises Health, WASH, RCEC/CEA, PGI and Shelter.

Considering the nature of pandemic movement, NRCS has been adopting mainly two approaches: one is Targeted approach in hotspot districts and second is continuity of whole of society approach through its 77 district chapter offices. At current situation, NRCS has been implementing COVID-19 Preparedness and Response program following **Targeted Approach** in 45 districts and continuity of **Whole of Society Approach** in remaining 32 districts.

Analyzing the evolving situation of COVID-19, NRCS will be focusing on following interventions in coming days;

- ✎ Continuation of medium and long-term preparedness and response program adding the component of capacity building of NRCS province, district chapters and sub-chapters to plan and implement such program in future.
- ✎ COVID-19 Preparedness and Response component should be an integral part of program and implementation based on country strategy. There is need to widen the discussion with partners for the common understanding.
- ✎ Nepal government is focusing home isolation for asymptomatic and mild cases of COVID-19. Therefore, NRCS should focus support to those patients who are staying home, extend management support for home isolations and distribution of home isolation kit approved by government.
- ✎ Potential and possible support areas for local government is to facilitate to prepare COVID-19 Risk Reduction Plan at Municipal level and its role out with regular updating mechanism of Corona Information Management System (C-MIS).
- ✎ Nepal has initiated dialogue on Corona Vaccines procurement and supply with manufacturer countries and companies. In this situation, NRCS needs to be in ready position for possible lead and engage to conduct upcoming vaccination campaigns in the country. It may include the responsibility of awareness raising, volunteers' mobilization to support create cold chain system and management of vaccination campaigns.
- ✎ It needs to conduct vulnerability assessment of affected households linking with health services and health condition of family members so that NRCS can support poor households through its different programs.
- ✎ The learnings, recommendations, review on its health and WASH policies and strategies are essential to institutionalize through consultation process so that readiness of organization increases to tackle with such type of pandemics/ epidemics in future.
- ✎ It is dire need to identify the health conditions of frontline workers and staffs of NRCS so that it can increase their safety and security and secure working environment in pandemic/epidemic situation.
- ✎ NRCS, in coming days, will formalize the learnings through review process of 1st stage of COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Program. It has already initiated the process for the review. After the formalization of learnings, 2nd stage of COVID-19 program will be initiated.

✖ Coordination and collaboration

All NRCS actions related to COVID-19 are in-line with GON MOHP, HEOC guidelines and initiatives. NRCS province offices, district chapters and sub-chapters have remained in close contact with local authorities and has supported their plan for quarantine, isolation and holding site assessment, establishment and management. Participation in district disaster management committee meeting in all districts. Participation in WASH cluster meeting (national and provincial) and other meeting such as media interaction program.

✖ Upcoming/participated event

- ✎ WASH cluster meeting every two weeks
- ✎ WASH and PGI technical working group meeting organized by IFRC Geneva- 2nd December 2020.
- ✎ APRO (Asia Pacific Regional Office) WASH and CASH working group meeting- 3rd December 2020
- ✎ WASH literature club meeting- every Friday

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Be SMART to be safe from COVID-19 Pandemic

S= Sanitize your surroundings

M= Maintain distance

A= Avoid crowd

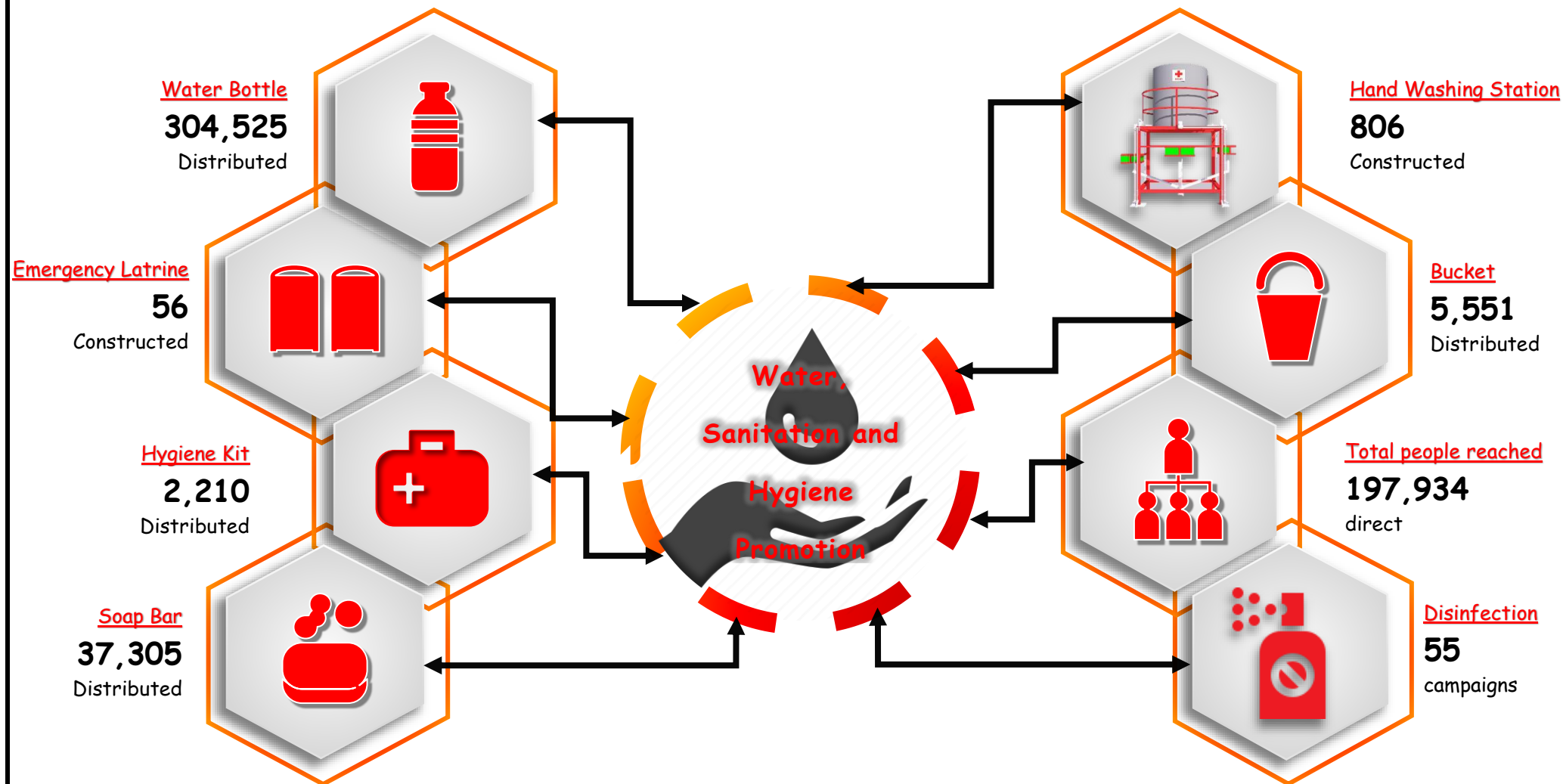
R= Repeatedly wash hands at least for 20 seconds

T= Tighten your masks properly all the time



WASH

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE OPERATION



Update as on 5th December, 2020

Source: https://bit.ly/NRCS_COVID19_Dashboard