

WASH orientation in Shree Secondary School
PC: Ramesh Karna, NRCS, Rautahat



COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Operation

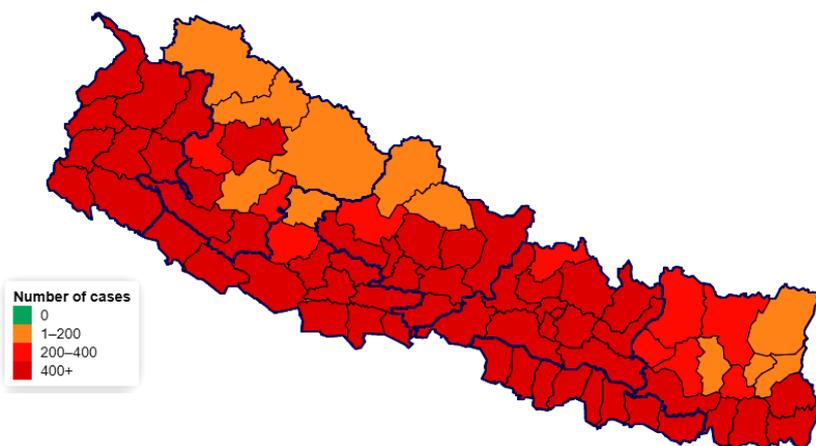
✖ Background

New cases of COVID-19 infection are gradually decreasing in Nepal, yet there are number of death cases being reported. COVID-19 has caused irreparable loss to many families who lost their family as well as pushed the global economy backwards. As Nepal government has uplifted the movement ban, with the increase in momentum, public have started to ignore the precautionary measures against COVID-19. Health experts in Nepal suggests to have extra precautionary measures following the winter as a new highly contagious strain has been reported in Britain and confirmed in Mexico as well as in neighboring country India which has created uncertainty among citizens in Nepal too due to open boarder between these two countries. In this risky season and situation, we all need to re-consider safety and security measures against COVID-19.

Situation Overview (as of 20 January 2020)		
Description	Nepal	Global
# of confirmed cases	267,992	96,158,735
# of patients recovered	2,62,259	53,035,240
# of death	1,969	2,056,996
# of people in isolation	3,764	23,260,411
#of countries affected	191	

(click for updates): <https://covid19.moHP.gov.np/#/>
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

It is time taking to revive the receded economic situation of the country and the world into pre-COVID condition. Realizing the antiviral vaccine property to decrease the severity of illness and breaking chain, Nepal Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) steps-in deciding the countries from where to import vaccines and the target population to whom to vaccinate. As a silver lining, the rollout of the vaccines such as Pfizer/BioNtech and Astra Zeneca/Oxford University providing up to 95 percent protection against COVID-19 has started in the countries like USA, Britain and India. [Source: https://www.bbc.com/news/health-55280671](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-55280671)



✖ COVID-19 vaccination progress in Nepal

Preferably antiviral vaccine have two properties (1) reduce the likelihood of getting severe illness and visit to hospital (2) break down the chain of infection through prevention of infection.

NPR 48 billion had recently been estimated by cabinet of Nepal Government to inoculate 52 percent of country population. While World Health Organization's COVAX program will support vaccines for 20 percent of country population, excluding children under 14 years of age. Below 14 year age group children represents 28 percent of Nepal population who will not be immunized as the vaccine have not been tested among the said age group. Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) already developed 24 different committee for COVID-19 vaccine rollout in Nepal. Similarly, MoHP has currently finalized the resource mobilization plan with target population and has a good partnership with different funding agencies.



Still a final decision regarding vaccine and a clear timeline for vaccination is yet to be finalized. Due to such uncertainty; readiness activities such as capacity building of health workers, community mobilization for vaccination, vaccination acceptance campaign at community level cannot be forwarded on time.

Relying on the future vaccine to fight against COVID-19 pandemic every individual must perform hand hygiene, use of face mask and physical distancing along with on-time testing and contact tracing as an optional and most effective preventive measures in developing countries like Nepal.

✘ NRCS initiations

One house one tap; for sustainability

NRCS has been supporting to provide safer drinking water services to the needy people in communities through water sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) program across Nepal as an auxiliary to Nepal Government since 1980s. WASH is one of the key intervention area that NRCS has been responding in emergencies and normal situation in different service delivery model. Having this long standing experience in the sector Red Cross has its various fact and findings in WASH, especially in terms of sustaining WASH facilities and behavior communication change (BCC). However, NRCS rightly apply the endorsed policies and procedures of Nepal Government and its respective ministries and departments.

Considering the sustainability of water schemes, Nepal Government has been encouraging all the WASH actors and its own respective wings towards household level tap connection by developing needful sector policy. Sector policy as the guiding document, NRCS has in-built one house one tap approach within its WASH programs for private tap connection instead of communal. This comes as years of learning experience in sustaining water supply facilities across Nepal. It has not only helped to build ownership of water users furthermore has been an effective approach for collection of water tariff and proper use of water. While reviewing past study reports, household connected water schemes are far more sustaining than communal ones. In recent days, NRCS has been implementing these types of WASH programs in Sindhuli, Dailekh and Palpa districts through WASH Division of Community Development Department (CDD) and will continue the similar model in upcoming programs. Moreover, inter-departments dialogues and discussion has been carried out in different time interval in regards of sustainability of water schemes as of which similar implementation model have been prioritizing by all the respective departments to ensure the longevity and sustainability of water services.



Elderly women using HH tap
PC: Jaynarayan Chaudhari, Sindhuli

✘ Highlight Story

One house one tap brings happiness

Amrita Sapkota (50) residing in Dhadakhola Dwari-3 expressed her bitter experience regarding the communal tap. She said, "There was one tap for one community but it was mishandled and disrupted the pipeline in different points and haphazardly joined it for their household use. The communal tap couldn't meet the demand of water."

Inclusive WASH project implemented by NRCS has adopted one house one tap approach which has made the daily lives easier and has increase the household ownership as well. She was delighted to share about the access to drinking water. She further stated that household level tap has increased the efficiency of women as it saves the time to fetch water. Women are able to spend more time with the family as well as household chores. There is sufficient water which has increased the sanitation in the household. As it is the household level tap, it is responsibility of each household to maintain their tap also to care for the scheme as it has made the daily live easier with increased access to safe drinking water leading to better sanitation and hygiene behavior.



Amrita Sapkota fetching water from her tap
PC: NRCS, Dailekh

Commitment from SMC for the O&M cost



Meeting with SMC, Shree Janata Secondary School
PC: Kshitiz Acharya, NRCS, HQs

Shree Janata Secondary School, located in Ward No.7 of Bhokraha Narasingha Rural Municipality of Sunsari district, where COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Program was implemented with the support

of UNICEF and NRCS. Initially, the school was used as a quarantine center. Construction of child friendly water taps and a hand pump along with distribution of WASH materials were done under the program. In the pandemic situation of COVID-19, another organization also supported for the construction of toilets and hand washing stations in the same school. Now, there is good WASH infrastructures in school for teachers and more than 700 students for future use. The school principal, teachers, president of School Management Committee (SMC) and students are pleased with all the provided facilities. Now, after reopening of school, school team are using those facilities and in return will ultimately improve the overall public health measures.

However, required resources and operational mechanism has not been developed or implemented so far for the repair and maintenance in these newly constructed WASH facilities. So, the President of SMC, during interaction with NRCS promised to manage the maintenance costs to ensure sustainability of these projects. Therefore, school team will decide and minute the allocation of maintenance costs at the next meeting of the SMC.

It was great commitment from president of SMC which will support for sustainability of the constructed WASH facilities.

✦ **Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in Action**



Hygiene promotion session in quarantine center
(PC: Purna Prasad Hamal, NRCS, Salyan)



NRCS volunteer distributing bucket and soap in community
(PC: Surya Bikram Gole, NRCS, Rasuwa)



Construction of handwashing station at Janata Secondary School
(PC: Kshitiz Acharya, NRCS, HQs)



Construction of raised tubewell at Balkrishna Secondary School
(PC: NRCS, Sunsari)



Raised hand pump and hand washing station at point of entry
(PC: NRCS Mahottari)



Mask, sanitizer & soap distribution at Kispang Rural Municipality
(PC: NRCS, Nuwakot)



Mask distribution to children in landless community
(PC: NRCS, Kaski)

✘ Livelihood in WASH



Stakeholder coordination meeting for beneficiary selection
(PC: Hira Singh Bishwokarma, NRCS, Dailekh)

sustaining their lives. Majority of the identified beneficiaries has chosen goat farming as a potential livelihood option due to early return. District Veterinary Office has also suggested a type of goat which is more productive in high altitude it has high potential in the implementation sector for more return. The economic status has a direct role in the sanitation and hygiene behavior of the people. Thus to upgrade and increase the access to sanitation and hygiene behavior of the ultra-poor families, WASH has also integrated livelihood in its approaches.

✘ 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

- ◆ COVID-19 preparedness & response program review and lesson learnt meeting organized by NRCS HQs- 7th Jan, 2021
- ◆ Technical working group CASH & WASH meeting organized by IFRC and BRC- 12th January, 2021.
- ◆ WASH literature club meeting (Austrian RC)- 15th & 18th Jan, 2021
- ◆ Emergency design for inclusive female friendly WASH facilities organized by IFRC Geneva- 21st January, 2021

Contact Detail

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Contributors

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WASH and livelihood are interconnected sector which has profound effect in reducing poverty and improving economy of community people. WASH sector can be strengthened considering livelihood sector as a proven case in Dailekh, Nepal. WASH division has incorporate livelihood as one of the component for inclusive WASH project. Inclusive WASH, Dailekh project supported ultra-poor household with livelihood support where household will get cash grant so as to choose a livelihood option and generate income for

Selection process of ultra-poor HHs for livelihood programming

•Ward WASH Coordination Committee (W-WASH-CC) circulate to Community WASH Coordination Committee (C-WASH-CC) to select the household for income generation.

•C-WASH-CC organized gathering and recognized ultra -poor house according to the wellbeing ranking in the ward.

•Motivators and field supervisor visited the households as recommended by C-WASH-CC.

•W-WASH-CC recommended household list.

•W-WASH-CC also finalized livelihood option of goat farming.

•Organized vocational training (goat farming)

•Upgrading goat-shed with business plan

•Received cash grant for purchase goats

कोभिड-१९ को महामारीबाट आफू
बचौं र अरुलाई पनि बचाऔं ।



भौतिक दुरी कायम गरौं



कम्तिमा २० सेकेन्डसम्म
साबुन पानीले हात धाऔं ।

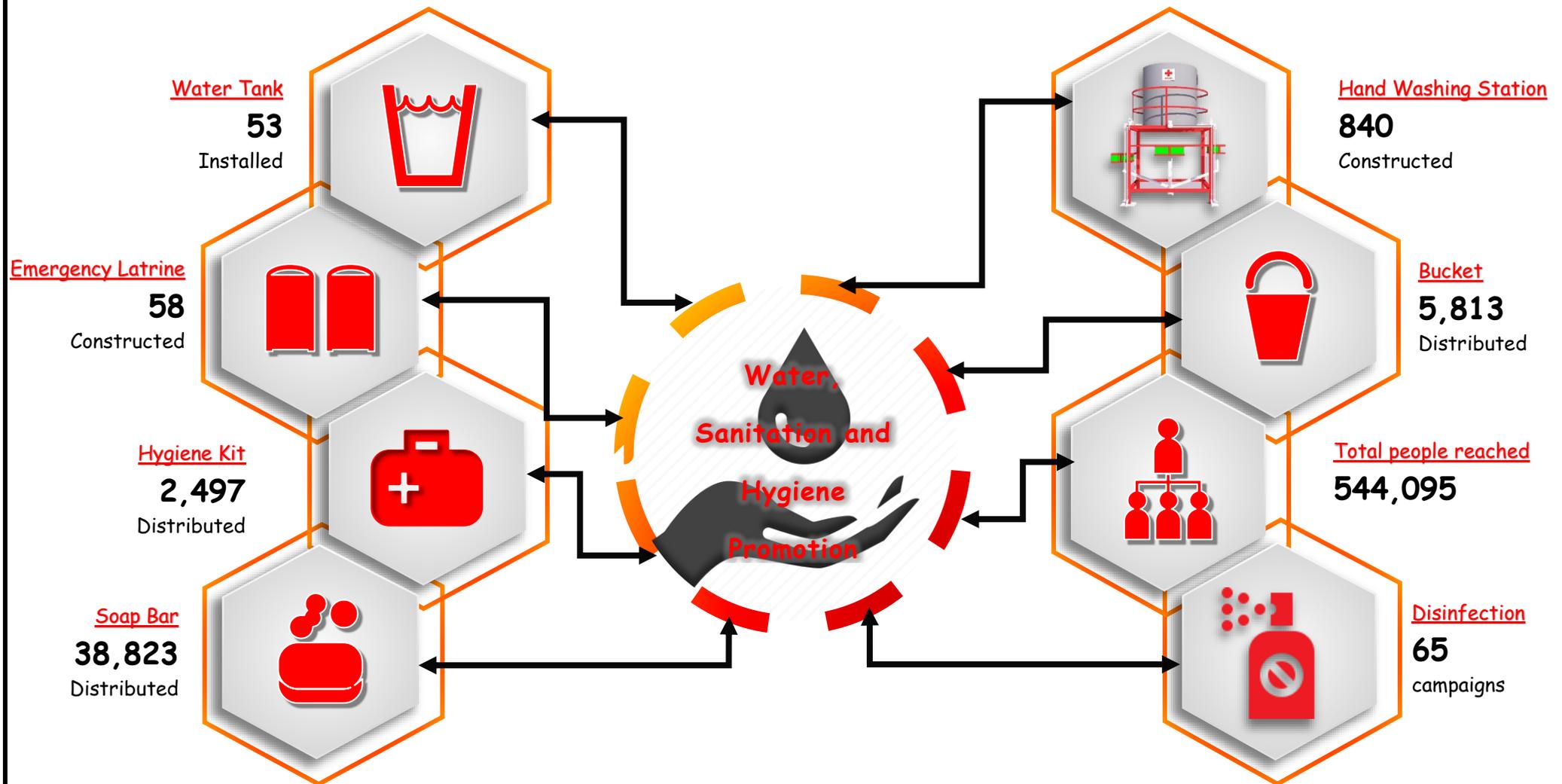


मास्क लगाऔं

नेपाल रेडक्रस सोसाइटी

WASH

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE OPERATION



Update as on 18th January, 2021

Source: https://bit.ly/NRCS_COVID19_Dashboard