

# COVID-19

## Preparedness and Response Operation

1 May 2021 - 23 May 2021

Update # 1

Issue date: 24 May 2021

### CONTEXT

#### Highlights:

- As COVID-19 infections are surging at unprecedented rate, prohibitory order has been imposed since 29 April in Kathmandu valley, extended until midnight of 27 May 2021. Public and private transports are restricted to ply however groceries; essential supply stores remain open until 10 a.m.
- The district administration office (DAO) in 74 of the 77 districts in country have enforced prohibitory orders to break the chain of coronavirus spread. According to Ministry of Home Affairs, 69 districts have enforced prohibitory orders in the entire district while 5 others have implemented the orders in the affected sites only.
- Suspension period of all international flights has been extended until 31 May 2021 (except two flights per week from Delhi as per the air bubble agreement), while all domestic flights have been suspended until further notice.
- The government has decided to use all beds in government hospitals in the capital for treatment of coronavirus patients. Hospitals used for COVID-19 treatment in Kathmandu valley include: Bir Hospital, Patan Hospital, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, National Trauma Centre and Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital. Also, private hospitals have been requested to allocate two thirds of their beds for coronavirus patients.
- The Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) has released list of essential health commodities urgently required to respond COVID-19; oxygen, critical care medicines and supplies and temporary hospitals. The Social Welfare Council has requested all I/NGOs member to divert 5-20% of their resources to the COVID-19 response.
- 21,13,080 people have been vaccinated across the country. Out of them, 5,14,253 have received both doses (update as of 21 May 2021)

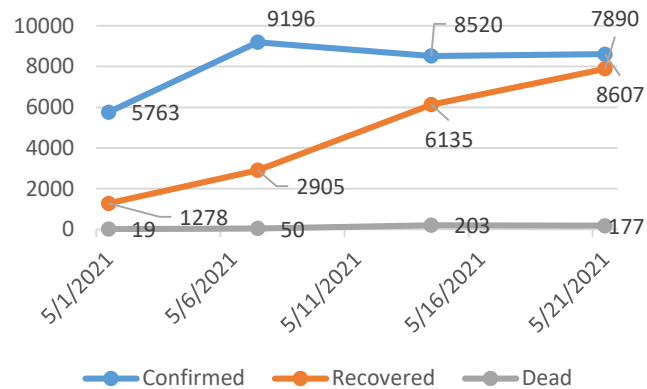
Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), as an auxiliary to the Government within its capacities and mandates, has been working on COVID-19 preparedness and response operation since early February 2020 in coordination with The MOHP, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Participating National Societies (PNS), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and non -Movement partners as well as other stakeholders.

NRCS has continued its COVID-19 response in 2021, with the activation of Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). To accelerate the COVID-19 response smoothly, NRCS has formed a National COVID-19 Response Committee guided by the NRCS Central Executive Committee. Main responsibilities of the committee are to support overall COVID-19 response, build up coordination with national and international stakeholders including Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners and help in resources generation and mobilization. With this objective, NRCS has developed online fundraising site (link) for all interested donors. Moreover, NRCS has withheld the development activities for time being to support the lifesaving intervention of COVID-19 response. COVID-19 activity implementation guideline has been shared to all 77 districts along with approval of NPR 1,00,000 budget to all district chapters. As of 23 May 2021, NRCS has reached more than 669,466 people through its services by mobilizing 1,456 volunteers.



NRCS and IFRC jointly coordinated with The Ministry of Health and Population and handed over 90 Oxygen concentrators and 700,000 masks, 2,000 coveralls to (Photo: NRCS)

### COVID 19 Weekly Trend Analysis



### VOICE

"I am happy to donate my blood for plasma therapy as this could save a life of another person. I was scared and worried when COVID-19 tested positive for me. However, Red Cross volunteers supported me to get out of it from the very beginning through psychosocial support, instruction to follow isolation rules and other support such as providing hygiene kit. Red Cross support has been crucial for my recovery from the infection as well as this has motivated me to donate blood."

-Saroj Thapa, 26, Madhyapur Thimi - Ward 3, Bhaktapur

(Voice collected by Uma Thapa, Bhaktapur District Chapter)

# SECTORAL PROGRESS

## 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



669,466

Total people reached (direct + indirect)



1,456

Volunteer mobilized

## Health and Care

### Major progress

- **16,247** people supported to access vaccination service provided by the government in Kathmandu valley and Sindhupalchok districts.
- **1,981** people reached through contact tracing surveillance. **41** NRCS staff and volunteers oriented on community based surveillance and contact tracing
- **1,159** persons including 27 boys and 18 girls (children) with COVID-19 infection were transported to hospital through NRCS ambulance service. The National Society upgraded 11 ambulances through compartment division.
- **33,302** personnel protective items such as full body personal protective equipment (PPE), masks and gloves distributed to front line responders
- **90** oxygen concentrators and personal protection items (**700,000** masks, **2,000** coveralls) handed over to Ministry of Health and Population
- **Pulse Oximeter Use Guideline** for volunteers and related information, education and communication (IEC) materials developed and disseminated to all district chapters so that they could use the guideline and IEC materials to orient people in community. Further, five volunteers and staff oriented in pulse oximeter use.
- **5,133** people reached through help desk
- **185** dead body management bags handed over to hospital and district administration office
- **62** people including two pregnant women and one person with disability from community received psychosocial first aid(PFA) service from NRCS. 67 staff and volunteers were oriented on PFA.
- **81** people were oriented on proper use of PPE and infection prevention control (IPC) measures
- **258** emergency kits handed over to isolation centre and hospital in Kathmandu district.



NRCS volunteer supporting at various vaccination clinic/center  
(Photo: NRCS)



NRCS Rukum Purba district chapter handed over 2 oxygen cylinder (each 50 liter capacity) to Sisne Municipality of the Rukum Purba district (Photo: NRCS Rukum)



## Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

### Major progress

- **9** hand washing stations established in quarantine site, schools and communities
- **224** people reached through hand washing demonstration sessions in community in Bhojpur and Palpa districts.
- **16,167** people entering Nepal from various border sites, point of entry provided with water bottles
- **189** hygiene kits were distributed in quarantine/isolation sites and hospitals
- **1,756** bars of soap, 22 bucket with tap, 1 water tank and 7 water mugs were distributed in isolation centre, prison and community
- Disinfection reagent was provided to prison in Mahatari district.



NRCS volunteer distributing drinking water to the people entering Nepal at Behaliya point of entry (**Photo: NRCS Rupandehi**)

## Risk Communication and CEA



Unit action team member of Parsa sharing information on importance of proper use of mask, and hand washing (**Photo: NRCS Parsa**)

### Major progress

- **10,297** information, education and communication materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banner with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed
- Total **215** calls received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130. **123** calls directly related to COVID-19.
- **6** episodes of Radio Programme aired through two national level FM: Kantipur and Sagarmatha. **557** times COVID-19 PSA has been aired through different FM stations across the country
- **1,155** people reached through Unit Action team with COVID-19 awareness message during campaigns along with offline social listening and rumour tracking
- **113,553** people reached through COVID-19 awareness activities for community
- **134** people reached through training/orientation on COVID-19 risk communication.
- NRCS social media volunteering page developed and more than 2100 youths joined the page as members. Volunteers activities and awareness message on COVID-119 has been shared through this page.

## Protection Gender and Inclusion

### Major progress

- **120** dignity kits were handed over to district health office in Kailali and Kanchanpur districts for distributing in isolation centre. **29** dignity kits distributed in isolation centres in Kalali and Myagdi districts. The dignity kit consists of hygiene promotion items and menstruation hygiene items for female.
- Involved in dignified management of dead body of COVID-19 patients
- Protection gender and inclusion issues has been integrated in the COVID-19 preparedness and response since the beginning. Disaggregated data of the people reached is collected on daily basis as part of web-based 5W reporting system. The data is analysed and emphasised on reaching the vulnerable groups of people such as children, pregnant women and senior citizen.



NRCS staff and volunteer during dignified dead body management of COVID-19 infected patient (**Photo: NRCS Myagdi**)

## Shelter and logistics

### Key Actions

- **20** kitchen sets, **78** tarpaulins and **3 tents** were provided to security forces and isolation centres.
- Supported establishment/upgrading of **5** isolation sites in Khotang, Sindhupalchowk and Bajhang districts
- A logistic team of NRCS along with representative from ICRC/IFRC and PNS has been formed to ensure timely supply and track all the requests and pipelines for medical supplies offered by humanitarian agencies and partner national societies
- Supported to transport essential health and shelter materials such as medicine to isolation centers in Sindhuli and Bajhang districts
- Started online donation platform ([Link](#))

### Guidelines

- COVID-19 expense management guideline developed

## PMER-IM

- Revised COVID-19 response plan in regards to identified needs of COVID-19 second wave
- Established COVID-19 NRCS wide web-based 5W database system so that consolidated information of the response could be obtained instantly at district, province and headquarters level. This system also helps in real time monitoring of the NRCS COVID-19 response across country and make evidence based decision regarding the operation on time.
- **162** NRCS staff and volunteers oriented on COVID-19 5W reporting system
- A team comprise of representative from NRCS and Movement partners has been formed at headquarters to coordinate and accomplish entire data management, reporting and communication initiatives in the operation.



NRCS produces daily situation report as well as infographs on regular basis

## CHALLENGES

- Exponential increase of transmission and potential risk of COVID-19 with emerging new variant/mutant
- Increase COVID-19 infection among staff and volunteers and their family members has hampered in timely service delivery to the people in need.
- Unavailability of medical goods and supplies in local market limiting the service at local units
- High expectation from stakeholders and diverse needs of community

## GOOD PRACTICES

- Good range of partnership with Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners and stakeholders: good approach to support the operation in terms of building coordination, generating resources and providing technical support.
- Appreciation by government bodies for strong positioning of NRCS volunteers at COVID-19 vaccine roll out clinics/centers
- Continuation of essential health service: ambulance service, blood transfusion service and door to door PFA and counselling along with plasma donation campaign
- Significant role of NRCS staff and volunteers in dignified dead body management ensuring COVID-19 safety and security measures

## COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

- All Red Cross actions related to COVID-19 are in line with Government of Nepal MOHP, Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) guideline and initiatives.
- NRCS province offices, district chapters and sub-chapters have remained in close contact with the local authorities and have been supporting isolation sites management.
- Participation in District Disaster Management Committee meeting along with health, WASH, PGI and shelter cluster meetings

## OUR PARTNERS FOR COVID-19

**Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Partners**

**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

## For further information

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