

COVID-19

Preparedness and Response Operation 2021

Update # 5

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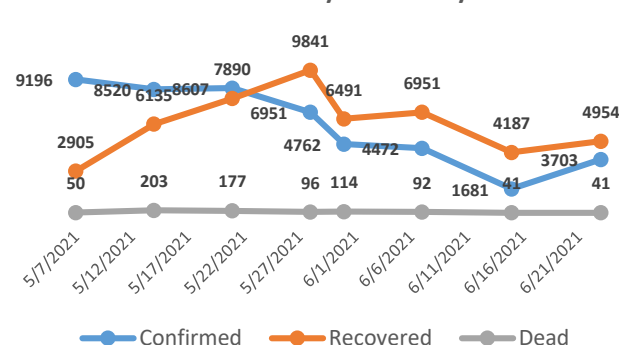
NRCS organized 5- day Red Cross Emergency Clinic (RCEC) on 15-19 June 2021 at Bajrabarahi Chapagaun Hospital in Godawari Municipality, Lalitpur where 154 people received health services. **(Photo: Sadikshya Shrestha)**

CONTEXT

- As of 22 June 2021, 654,470 people have been tested positive out of which 564,882 people have recovered and 8,813 have lost their lives due to COVID-19 related complications. Chart 1 demonstrates weekly cross-sectional data of COVID-19 new cases, persons recovered and deaths from 1 May to 21 June 2021. Daily new cases are in decreasing trend while daily number of persons recovering is greater than the new cases. In case of deaths, the number is also decreasing. For the detail, refer to Ministry of Health COVID-19 dashboard at <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/>
- Prohibitory orders imposed since 29 April 2021 in Kathmandu valley has further extended for one week until 28 June 2021 with flexibility of opening hours of shops and necessary service to facilitate daily lives of people however government emphasis to follow all health protocol: maintain physical distance of 2 meter and mandatory use of face mask while going out of home and wash hand frequently with soap water and use sanitizer. Vehicle with odd and even number will be operated on Nepali calendar however with limited number of passengers. All international schedule flights shall remain suspended however government has decided to open scheduled flight for Saudi Arabia, UAE, Japan, Qatar, Malaysia and Turkey keeping in mind the large number of migrant workers to these destinations for employment opportunities.
- A new mutant Delta variant of coronavirus has been detected in Nepal. Out of 48 swab samples of people living across the country collected from May 9-June 3, Delta (B.1.617.2) variant of COVID-19 was detected in 47 sample and Alfa (B.1.1.7) in one. Likewise, of 47 samples tested positive for Delta variant, a new K417N mutation was detected in nine samples. This new mutation is considered more infectious and fatal to all age groups and has been detected in 10 countries including Nepal.
- The monsoon season has started in Nepal and this year's rains are predicted to be heavier than average. There has already been flooding in various part of the country, which has caused human casualties, damage of infrastructure, crops and livestock. The most affected districts include Sindhupalchok, Lamjung, Manang, Mygadi, Parbat, Kaski and Chitwan. A total of 17 people, died, 13 people injured and 21 people are missing due to the disaster. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) is responding to the situation with the financial and technical support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Movement partners including American Red Cross and Danish Red Cross.
- 2,500,196 (8.7%) people have been vaccinated across the country. Out of them, 731,153 (2.6%) have received both doses (update as of 19 June 2021).

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, 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 preparedness and response in 2021 with focus on live saving actions, support for establishment/management of isolation centres, distribution of water bottles and hygiene/dignity kits, and risk communication at point of entry and holding centres, and awareness raising activities such as public service announcement (PSA) through radio and FM stations and miking. Other actions include mobilization of volunteers in COVID-19 vaccination centres/camps and secondment of immunization advisor at MoHP for supporting in overall COVID-19 vaccination campaign in the country. As of 22 June 2021, NRCS has reached 4,368,472 people directly and indirectly through COVID-19 response in Nepal since 1 May 2021.

COVID 19 weekly trend analysis



VOICE

"I had to consult a doctor regarding my pre-existing problems in uterus, but due the existing lockdown, I was unable to visit hospital. Meanwhile my husband suggested to me to visit RCEC health camp at Bajrabarahi Chapagaun Hospital. Then myself along with my father in law came here", says Tara Sanjel.

"We were amazed with the clinical service provided by the team including psychosocial consultation and informative reading materials to the visiting patient", Tara continues her experiences with the service. "I am thankful to Red Cross for providing health service along with free medicine, when we could not visit to doctors despite of urgent needs of health check-up," Tara expresses her thankfulness to Red Cross.

Tara Sanjel, is a local resident of Godawari Municipality, who received health service from Red Cross Emergency Clinic (RCEC). The clinic was operated for 5 days, on 15-19 June 2021 as an extended OPD service of Bajrabarahi Chapagaun Hospital. The close coordination of NRCS Lalitpur with Godawari Municipality, Bajrabarahi Chapagaun Hospital has successfully provided health service to 154 people including senior citizen, children and women who have been deprived of health service due to this pandemic situation.

-Story collected by Sadikshya Shrestha/NRCS

SECTORAL PROGRESS

Target group

- People infected with 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, people with chronic disease
- Migrant returnees/labourers/workers
- School children
- People at points of entry, in holding areas, quarantine/isolation centres
- People in prisons
- Public in general



4,368,472

People reached (direct + indirect)



3,954

Volunteer mobilized

Health and Care

Major progress

- **19,841** people including 22 single women, 17 people with disability and 7 pregnant mother reached through contact tracing surveillance.
- **1,561** persons including 3 pregnant women and 2 single women with COVID-19 infection were transported to hospital by NRCS ambulances. The National Society upgraded its 11 ambulances with compartment division.
- **54,106** people supported to access vaccination service provided by the government. NRCS has mobilized more than **600** volunteers and staff in vaccination centres
- **849,474** personnel protective items such as full body personal protective equipment (PPE), coveralls, masks and gloves distributed to front line responders
- **1,534** people received psychosocial first aid (PFA)/psychosocial support service (PSS) from NRCS
- **110** people oriented on proper use of PPE and infection prevention control (IPC) measures
- **758** health/emergency kits provided to COVID-19 isolation centres, hospitals and persons infected with COVID-19
- **81** oxygen cylinders, **12** oximeters, 17 oxygen concentrator provided to COVID-19 isolation centres, hospitals and Palika offices benefiting more than 26,000 people.
- **1,993** blood donation campaign conducted where 5,693 donated blood



NRCS volunteer involving in contact tracing surveillance at Ainselukharka Rural Municipality Ward No.3, Khotang
(Photo: Chattra Kumar Bazimaya, Secretary NRCS Khotang)



NRCS Kathmandu deployed its volunteer to support in the antigen testing being conducted by local government (Photo: NRCS Kathmandu)

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

Major progress

- **3,632** people reached through hand washing demonstration sessions at point of entry and strategic location at different community
- **29,574** water bottles distributed to people entering Nepal from various border sites, points of entry and staying at holding centres
- **647** hygiene kits distributed in quarantine/isolation sites and hospitals (10 in community, 156 at health service centre, 408 in isolation centre, 30 in quarantine site and rest at other office /organization.)
- **9,422** bars of soap, 188 buckets with tap, 5 water tanks and, 2805 sanitizers, 55 water mugs and 115 toilet cleaning materials (like toilet brush, toilet cleaner, plunger etc.) distributed in isolation centre, prisons and communities
- **12** hand washing stations constructed/repairs at isolation centres, hospitals, schools and community. Proper hand washing with soap and water is one of the ways to contain COVID-19

Risk Communication and CEA



Hand washing demonstration and dissemination of COVID-19 awareness to Tube Well User Committee Members of Dhanusha, Nagarain Municipality (Photo: Asharam Yadav, NRCS volunteer)

Major progress

- **19,271** information, education and communication materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banners with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed
- **439** calls received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130. Out of them, **182** calls were related to COVID-19.
- **15** episodes of Radio Programme aired through two national level FM's: Kantipur and Sagarmatha. The programme contained COVID-19 related information.
- Likewise, COVID-19, gender based violence, water sanitation and hygiene promotion, and blood service related PSA aired 1302 times through different FM stations across the country
- **1,245** people reached through Unit Action team with COVID-19 awareness message during campaigns along with offline social listening and rumour tracking
- **1,520,517** people reached through COVID-19 awareness activities such as miking
- **134** people reached through training/orientation on COVID-19 risk communication
- Developed COVID-19 risk communication-community engagement and accountability guideline and shared with all province and district chapters
- **97** online media coverages and 140 daily news coverages about Red Cross response against COVID-19

Protection Gender and Inclusion

Major progress

- **303** people reached with dignity kits among which 36 kits were distributed at community, 5 at different health service centre, 126 in isolation centres, 9 distributed prison of Rolpa, 13 kits distributed in Beni district hospital quarantine site other remaining in local office/organizations.
- The dignity kit consists of hygiene promotion items and menstruation hygiene items for female
- **772** dead body management bags handed over to hospital and district administration office
- Involved in dignified management of dead body of COVID-19 patients
- **85** women, children and other vulnerable people supported with management of vehicle to reach their destination
- **120** children and their family members affected with COVID-19 including 46 female provided with psychosocial support
- **1** person (female) affected by COVID-19 was provided with dignity kit and cash support
- **1** person with disability provided with assistive device in Kathmandu district
- **13 Food package... in dolakha**



A senior citizen, reading COVID-19 awareness message displayed at Mude Bazar, Dharmadevi Municipality Ward No. 3 in Sankhuwasabha (Photo: NRCS Sankhuwasabha)

Shelter and logistics

Key Actions

- Provided 41 bed sheets, 261 tarpaulin, 33 mattresses, 218 blanket, 245 mosquito nets, 8 tent and 20 kitchen sets to different holding center, jail/prison, isolation center including security forces
- Supported establishment/upgrading of **53** isolation centers in various district including Terhathum, Palpa, Sindhupalchowk, Bajhang and Khotang district
- Logistic team comprising members from NRCS, ICRC, IFRC and PNS have been tracking all requests and pipelines for medical supplies offered by humanitarian agencies and partners, receiving them and dispatching to NRCS province offices and district chapters for distribution
- NRCS online donation platform is functional ([Link](#))

PMER-IM



NRCS has been issuing COVID-19 response daily situation report, and weekly consolidated report and infographic. Source of the data for the reports is NRCS web based 5W database and reporting system.

The consolidated reports and info-graphs are available in NRCS website.

www.nrcs.org

CHALLENGES

- The seasonal monsoon alert from mid-June with massive destruction and causality has urged the emergency need for monsoon response, which has slowed down the COVID-19 response in some of the floods and landslides affected districts.
- There is potential risk of COVID-19 spread in communities in the recent floods and landslides affected areas as people displaced by the disaster have been taking shelter with their relatives or living together with their neighbours. Also there are interruption of hygiene and sanitation practices in the disaster affected area.
- Limitation on volunteer mobilization due to unavailability of clear volunteer insurance mechanism

COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

- All Red Cross actions related to COVID-19 are in line with Government of Nepal guideline and initiatives.
- NRCS province offices, district chapters and sub-chapters have remained in close contact with the local authorities and have been supporting in isolation centres management.
- NRCS has been participating in meetings called by government and other organizations, and sharing Red Cross actions and extending hands of partnership and collaboration in COVID-19 response.

GOOD PRACTICES

- NRCS has mobilised volunteers to support case investigation and contact tracing at local level
- Government has appreciated positioning of NRCS volunteers at COVID-19 vaccination clinics/centres
- NRCS has been carrying out monsoon response operation with formation of emergency response team in each district. This team has speeded up response activities in settlements displaced by the monsoon floods and landslides with precautionary measures considering the high risk of COVID-19 spread.
- NRCS has promoted cross-learning between two ongoing operations (COVID-19 and Monsoon), for instance same standard tool (5W table) has been adapted for rapid collection and management of information. The 5W database has been used to generate all types of reports.
- NRCS has strong coordination and partnership with local government and other stakeholders, which supported to conduct blood collection campaign and other humanitarian actions under COVID-19 response.

OUR PARTNERS FOR COVID-19

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Partners

UN agencies: UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO,

NGOs/INGOs having bilateral partnership with district chapters: Plan International, Mercy Corps, GIZ

Private Sectors: Coca-Cola Company, local industries and traders

Philanthropists: Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association, NepalMedUK, individual donors

Government agencies at federal, provincial and local levels

For further information

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