

COVID-19

Preparedness and Response Operation 2021

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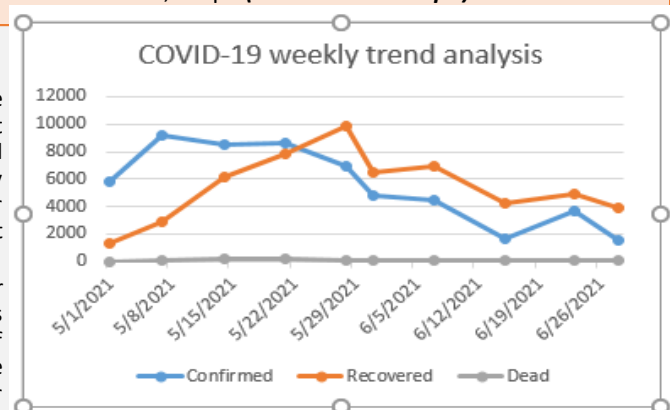
CONTEXT

- As of 28 June 2021, 635,188 people have been tested positive out of which 588,187 people have recovered and 9,051 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 28 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 5 July 2021 with flexibility of opening hours 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 in both private and public transportation. Government has resume more international flights for Saudi Arabia, UAE, Japan, Qatar, Malaysia and Turkey effective from 24 June to 30 June 2021. Similarly, 50% domestic flights effective will be effective from 1st July 2021, and will continue until further notice.
- A new mutant Delta variant of coronavirus has been detected in Nepal which is considered to be more infectious and fatal to all age groups and has been detected in 10 countries including Nepal.
- With the continuation of monsoon and its induced disaster has caused human casualties with damaged infrastructures and crops at various part of country. The most affected districts include Sindhupalchok, Lamjung, Manang, Myagdi, Parbat, Kaski and Chitwan.
- A total of 22 people died with 9 people injured and 22 people are missing due to the disaster. NRCS Emergency Response Team (ERT) was formed in each district for monsoon preparedness and response. 8 Initial rapid Assessment (IRA) has been conducted through a three member team including NRCS, Local Government and Nepal Police which has helped in collecting information. 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.
- 2,582,375 (9.0%) people have been vaccinated across the country. Out of them, 749,585 (2.6%) have received both doses (update as of 26 June 2021). According to Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) 2nd dose of Vero cell will be administered to the elderly people from 6 July 2021. As per a notice issued, as many as 170,000 elderly people will be inoculated with this vaccine.

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 28 June 2021, NRCS has reached 6,102,178 people directly and indirectly through COVID-19 response in Nepal since 1 May 2021.



NRCS volunteer conducted proper hand washing demonstration session for children at Kachankawl, Jhapa (Photo: NRCS Jhapa)



VOICE

"I came to realize importance of staying in quarantine only when my family members got infected with COVID-19 because of my carelessness" says Sukhichan Mukhiya, a returnee from India

Sukhichan Mukhiya resident of Pipra Municipality, Ward No. 2, Mahattari district arrived Birtamode checkpoint of Jhapa, Nepal from Delhi.

There was holding centre at point of entry where the returnee had to undergo for a checkup and get instructions about precautionary measures to be followed at home quarantine for 14 days.

However, Sukhichan escaped from the holding centre without any checkup and education on COVID-19 safety measures. He reached home and stayed with family without following any precautionary measures. As a result, he together with his whole family members fell sick and tested COVID-19 positive. According to him, although all family members recovered from the infection after treatment in hospital, they suffered a lot from the infection.

Finally, Sukhichan expresses his commitment, "We should not ignore any safety measures against COVID-19. I will continue disseminating message about importance of quarantine and precautionary measures among my neighbors, relatives and friends so that we can break COVID-19 transmission chain".

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



6,102,178

People reached (direct + indirect)



3,954

Volunteer mobilized

Health and Care

Major progress

- **21,004** people including 22 single women, 17 people with disability and 7 pregnant mother reached through contact tracing surveillance.
- **1,571** persons including 3 pregnant women and 2 single women, 4 pregnant women and 11 people with disability with COVID-19 infection were transported to hospital by NRCS ambulances. The National Society upgraded its 11 ambulances with compartment division.
- **59,907** people supported to access vaccination service provided by the government. NRCS has mobilized more than **600** volunteers and staff in vaccination centres
- **901,514** 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
- **1,256** health/emergency kits provided to COVID-19 isolation centres, hospitals and persons infected with COVID-19
- **2,461** blood donation campaign conducted where 5,693 donated blood



NRCS Dailekh handed over oxygen cylinder, health and WASH supplies to chairman of Dhungeshwor Rural Municipality (Photo: NRCS Dailekh)



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.)
- **9,677** bars of soap, 193 buckets with tap, 5 water tanks and, 3390 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/repared at isolation centres, hospitals, schools and community. Proper hand washing with soap and water is one of the ways to contain COVID-19



NRCS volunteers distributing mask along with COVID-19 awareness message to women and children through Mothers Group at Gadwa Rural Municipality, Dang (**Photo: NRCS Dang**)

Risk Communication and CEA

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
- **483** calls received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130. Out of them, **197** calls were related to COVID-19.
- **17** episodes of Radio Programme aired through two national level FMs: 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 1,302 times through different FM stations across the country
- **15,738** people reached through Unit Action team with COVID-19 awareness message during campaigns along with offline social listening and rumour tracking
- **1,693,081** 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
- **235** COVID-19 related posts shared in NRCS Facebook Page with 69213 reach

Protection Gender and Inclusion

Major progress

- **308** 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
- **795** 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 distributed in Dolakha district



NRCS supported a senior citizen in Khadbari, Sankhuwasabha, to take hospital for further treatment (Photo: NRCS Sankhuwasabha)

PMER-IM

NRCS has been issuing COVID-19 response daily situation report, and weekly consolidated report and infograph. 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

Shelter and logistics

Key Actions

- Provided 41 bed sheets, 275 tarpaulin, 33 mattresses, 218 blanket, 251 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](#))



NRCS Bhaktapur district chapter established temporary shelter for visitors of COVID-19 infected patients nearby Korean Hospital at Thimi (Photo: Uma Thapa, NRCS Bhaktapur)

CHALLENGES

- The seasonal monsoon continued 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 lack of clear insurance mechanism for volunteers.

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 been carrying out monsoon response operation with formation of emergency response team in each district. These teams have speeded up response activities in monsoon floods and landslides affected area 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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