

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene (WASH) For All

× Background

Realizing the immediate priority of Government of Nepal (GoN) to vaccinate its people, international community with its COVAX program is providing vaccines to Nepal. After early forecast of possibility of third wave of COVID-19 in Nepal by the health specialists, all the stakeholders are on standby mode, ready to tackle the wave. Now, people themselves are more aware of the pandemic and are very willing to be vaccinated. In light of which, regular vaccination campaigns are under going throughout Nepal. As an auxiliary to the government, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) is backing up most of the COVID related preparedness and response activities led by the government. Staff and volunteers are mobilized in all COVID-19 affected districts.

COVID-19 Situation Overview (as of 26 July 2021)			
Description	Nepal	Global	
# of confirmed cases	680,556	194,906,607	
# of patients recovered	643,615	176,853,293	
# of death	9,713	4,177,695	
# of people in isolation	27,228	13,875,619	
# of countries affected	220		
(click for updates): https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/ https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html			

Construction of WASH facilities in holding center, isolation center and health institutions are being rapidly implemented by NRCS through its funding partners. NRCS even has provided essential health care sup-

plies to government bodies and hygiene kits to community people. Similarly, health volunteer, community volunteer and project staff are relentlessly devoting their time in the community to minimize the health risk in the verge of COVID-19. With all the preparedness and response activities rolled out all over Nepal, GoN now have eased the lockdown modality and have warned its people to take all the necessary preventive actions whenever they are out.

× Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan (MPRP)



Flood in melamchi river inundating the bazaar area (PC: NRCS, Sindhupalchok)

In less than a week after the start of monsoon, it wreaked havoc in several places of Nepal including Melamchi and Helambu of Sindhupalchok like never before. Since 15 June 2021, more than 22 deaths, 22 missing and 9 injuries had been reported due to heavy rainfall and landslide in different part of the country till 25 June 2021. The event has also displaced more than 672 households and directly affected more than 1032 households. Similarly, 274 households were fully destroyed and 157 households were

partially destroyed by the devastating floods and landslides. The affected communities are in need of immediate relief and lifesaving supports like emergency shelter, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, hygiene items and ready to eat food items. NRCS volunteers are engaged in search and rescue, First Aid, assessment and relief distributions through its local units- district chapter and sub-chapter mobilizing skilled volunteers following the safety and security precaution against COVID-19.

This year, according to the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, heavy rainfall will further cause an increased water level in most of the major rivers in the country resulting devastating floods in terai districts and furious landslides in hilly districts. NRCS, being front liner organization in disastrous situations, had already prepared a

Statistical Situation: Summary as of <u>23 July, 202</u>	<u>:1</u>
Dead	50
Missing	34
Injured	23
Displaced Families	1903
Affected Families	3409
Houses Destroyed	740
Fully	/48
Partially	929
NFRIS distributed	574
NFRIS full set	5/1
Tarpaulin	1567
Blanket	463
Utensil	105
Number of Volunteer mobilized	25
WASH items distributed	
Hygiene kit	123
Emergency toilets set	63
Aqua tab, PIUS	200
Soap	36
Mask	1350
Bucket	167

monsoon preparedness and response plan (MPRP) that clearly reflects the organizational capacities and gaps for immediate response. As per the plan, trained human resources are regularly alerted for possible deployment similarly, various orientations have been conducted for disaster response including emergency shelter construction, NFRIs distributions, cleaning and disinfecting of water sources, water treatment, construction of sanitation facilities, i.e., emergency toilets and WASH relief items distributions and preposition of relief materials. With MPRP in hand, NRCS is now in better position to response whenever and where ever required.

× NRCS approach

Partners' Budget Re-allocation for COVID-19 Responses

After the 2nd wave break out of COVID-19 in Nepal, the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) requested all of its partners to allocate some budgets for COVID-19 re- 40 sponse. Accepting NRCS proposals, almost 13 partners have re-allocated their 30 budget. The allocation has been accomplished in 18 existing projects where COVID- 20 19 responses were not incorporated during the design phase as they are non- 10 COVID-19 response projects. By analysis, re-allocation has been agreed for 42 dis- 0 tricts where five districts are overlapped by at least two different projects.







Diagnosis of re-allocating nature,

mainly budget has been allocated in logistic parts especially for procurement of life saving items such as *oxygen cylinder, medicines support, pulse oximeter, oxygen concentrators, personal protective equipment, disinfectants, medical masks.* Apart from this, some budget has also been allocated for protection, risk communication and COVID-19 chain break activities. Based on the analysis, on average NPR 653,385 per district, NPR 1,524,565 per project and NPR 2,110,936 per donor have been allocated and being implemented through different departments.

Analysing the consolidation report, American Red Cross has 14,000,000.00

supported in three projects, Korean Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross are supporting in two/two projects each. Other 9 partners including UNICEF have supported in one project. Budget-wise, Japanese Red Cross has supported NPR 12.05 million and followed by British Red Cross NPR 6.21 million and so on. Apart from this, some of the partners such as IFRC, Danish RC, Finnish RC, British RC, American RC, Swiss RC, Japanese RC etc have also supported in *COVID-19 basket* fund through IFRC system. NRCS is administering these re-allocated budgets and projects as per agreed cooperation modalities envisaged in respective agreement modes.



NRCS COVID-19 Health Survey

NRCS, Community Development Department (CDD) has conducted a health survey in context to COVID-19. The main purpose of the health survey was to understand knowledge, attitude and practice on COVID-19 and to know the health condition of staff and program volunteers under CDD. Altogether 64 staff and program volunteers of CDD participated in this survey. Out of them, 23 were female. They are working in national headquarters and different projects in eight districts. The range of age of respondents was from 18 to 59 years. During the survey, 39 questions were asked to respondents. The survey was done online.

Some of the major findings of the health survey are:

- Eight respondents are found at risk level, five at moderate risk level, three at high-risk level and four at the extreme high-risk level of their health in the situation of COVID-19.
- 35 respondents were found in a healthy weight, 23 are overweight and six are in underweight categories. In the overweight category (23), it shows that two respondents are obese status whose Body Mass Index (BMI) is above 30. Centres for Disease Control (CDC) states that people who have obesity are at increased risk for many diseases and health conditions.
- During the survey, 13 respondents were found to be in stress, fear or disappointment conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the report, crucial recommendations and conclusions were drawn as a way forward for safety and security of staff and volunteers in context of crisis and disaster. Some are given below:

- Awareness on the importance of health for everyone, thus, the significance of the healthy living while performing on humanitarian organization, which often works on emergency and pandemic.
- Continuous monitoring and practices on safety behaviors among the staff and program volunteers.
- Promotion of understanding and practices of spiritual health.
- Increased understanding and importance of holistic health.
- Promotion of other health and wellbeing-related subsidies while health insurances being basic security.



Click on the icon to read the full report

× Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in Action



NRCS volunteers helping in distribution of relief materials (PC: NRCS, Sindhupalchok)



NRCS providing ambulance service to COVID positive patient from home isolation to hospital (PC: NRCS, Parsa)



Handover of sanitation materials for mobile toilet at Teku Hospital (PC: NRCS, Kathmandu)



Conducting hand washing practice session to children under 18 (PC: NRCS, Jhapa)



People using handwashing station facility at PoE, Birgunj (PC: NRCS, Parsa)



Construction completion of School toilet (PC: Arun Kunwar, NRCS, Dailekh)



Handover of life saving medical equipments and WASH items (PC: Arun Kunwar, NRCS, Dailekh)



HH using candle filter distributed by NRCS and RM (PC: Srutinath Chaudhary, NRCS, Dailekh)

× Highlight stories

Thanking Unit Action Team (UAT) members for humanity



Aarati Acharya (UAT member) helping disabled man in vaccination center (PC: NRCS, Dhangadi)

COVID-19 has spread worldwide now. Till now, millions of people are dead, along with ever increasing number of infected people in the world and the case is similar in Nepal too. Kailali district chapter in coordination with NRCS HQs and UNICEF, conducted vaccination campaign by forming ward level working team under preparedness and response program to fight against COVID-19 in Dhangadi submetropolitan city.

Under this program UAT is a key actor for successful execution of program activities. Ward no 12 coordinator of UAT, Aarati Acharya assists disabled, weak and older citizen for vaccination. She says, "*I am very fortunate and happy in assisting people in need of support.*" Differently abled man, Manbir Nath says that he will never forget this help and expresses a big thank you to Aarati Acharya. Health in charge Dr. Krishna Bahadur Bohara says that, "UAT members are involved in awareness activities in the communities, assisting people in queue, making vaccination cards, helping disabled people and are supporting in vaccination center, this has turned out to be very effective in the battle against COVID-19."

× Coordination and collaboration

Increasing access to WASH facilities



Mr. Sanjay Gharti Magar, Chairman of Chisapani DWSS (PC: NRCS, Rolpa)

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of Madi Rural Municipality of Rolpa district. However, lack of irrigable water facilities results in low yield and the year-round farming can only feed the family for 6 to 8 months. Due to limited knowledge on personal, domestic and environmental hygiene and lack of access to safe drinking water and proper sanitary units like toilet, washing

platform and garbage disposal pit, they were suffering from waterborne diseases.

Since August 2020, NRCS Rolpa has been implementing "Integrated Community Resilience Project (ICRP)" in Madi RM, ward number-2, with the financial support of Finnish Red Cross. The project aims to provide sustainable and safe drinking water contributing to Sustainable Development Goal envisioned by GoN. Construction work of Chisapani DWSS in ward no-2 of Madi RM is completed with "one house one tap concept". A total of 291 people (Male-156 and Female-135) have been benefitted from this scheme.

"The ICRP has played a crucial role for increasing the income by helping in producing garlic from daily wasted water and provide WASH facilities in every household in this community", proudly says Mr. Sanjay Kumar Gharti Magar, Chairman of the drinking water users' committee, Madi Rural Municipality ward no.2, Simpani.

WHEN I'M IN OFFICE, I STILL

WASH OR SANITIZE MY HANDS

WEAR MY MASK

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A ll 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 literature club meeting every Friday
- Monsoon meeting (WASH) on 18th May, 2021
- National WASH cluster meeting 22nd June, 2021
- COVID-19 task committee meeting
- CVA and WASH TWG meeting

(Click on the link to donate: <u>https://bit.ly/3nXndUh</u> or use the QR code)

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