

COVID-19

Preparedness and Response Operation 2021

Update # 3

Reporting Period: 1 – 7 June 2021

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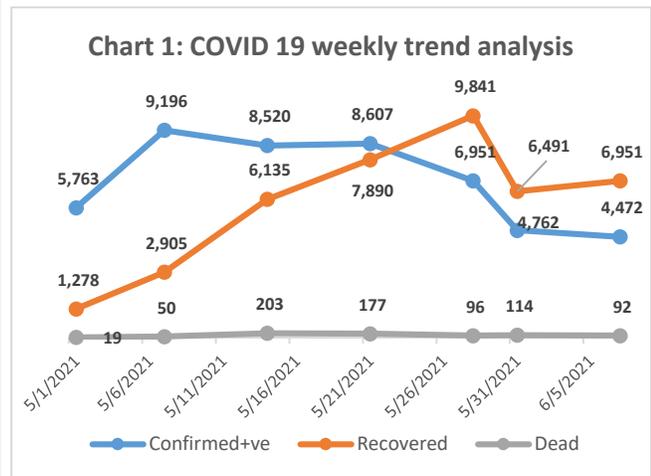
NRCS Myagdi district chapter volunteer (treasurer) distributing child friendly masks to a boy in Beni, Myagdi in the community considering the COVID-19 risk to children. As of 7 June, the district chapter has distributed 12,000 child-friendly masks in community/school.

(Photo: NRCS Myagdi)

CONTEXT

Highlights:

- Nepal's COVID-19 test positivity rate has been found to be more than three times higher than that of India. Ministry of Health and population (MoHP), Nepal has COVID-19 test positivity rate of 37.7 % compared to 10.4% in India. Nepal COVID-19 death rate for every 1 million population stands at 5 % while the rate is 2.8% in India.
- Prohibitory orders imposed since 29 April 2021 in Kathmandu valley has further extended until 14 June 2021 to curb the coronavirus pandemic.
- 75 out of the 77 districts of Nepal are currently under prohibitory orders, restricting human and vehicular movements, public gathering and other social activities as a precautionary measure against spread of COVID-19.
- Medical supplies from the UK government arrived in Nepal which include 260 units of ventilators (130 CPaP and 130 BiPaP machines), assorted consumables to last around four weeks and 19,200 eye protectors. The same charter flight carried oxygen concentrators donated by NepalMedUK, a charity organization based in UK.
- The Government of Nepal has allowed limited passenger flights to and from the key gateways, like China, Qatar and Turkey since 1 June 2021. Likewise, regular scheduled flights to India have resumed. While suspension of the domestic flights remains until further notice.
- Chart 1 demonstrates weekly cross-sectional data of COVID-19 new cases, persons recovered and deaths from 1 May to 7 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 fluctuating.
- 21,13,080 (7.4%) people have been vaccinated across the country. Out of them, 714,163 (2.5%) have received both doses (update as of 7 June 2021).



VOICE

"I am very much thankful to Nepal Red Cross volunteers who managed my travel cost from point of entry at Jamunaha, Bankey, to my hometown, Jajarkot" says Pawan Thapa, returnee from India.

Pawan Thapa, permanent residence of Jajarkot, Nepal had been working in India for 3 years. Because of increased cases of COVID-19 and lockdown in India, he decided to return to his hometown. He travelled alone from India to the point of entry at Jamunaha, Bankey, Nepal. However, he did not have enough money to travel to his hometown. Fortunately, he came across and was identified by Red Cross volunteers at the point of entry. The volunteers then managed vehicle for carrying him safely to his hometown.

-Story collected by: Jhabi Lal Sharma, NRCS Banke

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 Ministry of Health and Population (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 preparedness and response in 2021 with focus on actions like ambulance services to transport persons infected with COVID-19 to hospital, 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 7 June 2021, NRCS has reached more than 3,000,000 people directly and indirectly through COVID-19 response in Nepal since 1 May 2021.

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



3,051,775

People reached (direct + indirect)



3,954

Volunteer mobilized

Health and Care

Major progress

- **5,820** people reached through contact tracing surveillance. **88** NRCS staff and volunteers oriented on community based surveillance and contact tracing
- **1,419** persons with COVID-19 infection were transported to hospital by NRCS ambulances. The National Society upgraded its 11 ambulances with compartment division.
- **23,491** people supported to access vaccination service provided by the government
- **482,866** personnel protective items such as full body personal protective equipment (PPE), coveralls, masks and gloves distributed to front line responders
- **986 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
- NRCS staff and volunteers has been visiting persons with COVID-19 under home isolation and providing PFA services along with food in different districts, for instance Lalitpur and Tanahu.
- **277** emergency kits distributed
- Organized an interaction session on current COVID-19 context of Nepal with Dr. Sher Bahadur Pun, Virologist of Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital on 1 June 2021 which was participated by 56 Red Cross staff and volunteers including 23 female
- Developed short informative video on Mucor mycosis and shared through NRCS Facebook page



NRCS Jumla handed over medical equipment and personal protective materials to district COVID Crisis Management Centre **(Photo: NRCS Jumla)**



NRCS Dumsikot Subchapter has mobilized its volunteer along with health service providers to visit persons with COVID-19 under home isolation for PFA service along with medical supplies and food support **(Photo: NRCS Tanahun)**

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

Major progress

- **276** people reached through hand washing demonstration sessions
- **23,759** water bottles distributed to people entering Nepal from various border sites, points of entry and staying at holding centres
- **519** hygiene kits distributed in quarantine/isolation sites and hospitals
- **8,194** bars of soap, 98 buckets with tap, 5 water tanks and, 55 water mugs distributed in isolation centre, prisons and communities
- Provided water filter to isolation centre in Gorkha hospital.



NRCS Gorkha handed over a water filter to isolation center established in Gorkha Hospital (Photo: NRCS Gorkha)

Risk Communication and CEA



Volunteer distributed mask along with COVID-19 awareness message to the road walkers at Chhayanath Rara Municipality -6 near to Talcha Airport Mugu (Photo: NRCS Mugu)

Major progress

- **89,000** information, education and communication materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banners with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed
- **332 (69 female callers and 263 male callers)** calls received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130. Out of them, **171** calls were related to COVID-19.
- **11** 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 873 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
- **949,420** people reached through COVID-19 awareness activities such as miking
- **134** people reached through training/orientation on COVID-19 risk communication
- **118** COVID-19 related posts shared in NRCS Facebook Page with 25,533 reach
- Developed COVID-19 risk communication-community engagement and accountability guideline and shared with all province and district chapters

Protection Gender and Inclusion

Major progress

- **288** people reached with dignity kits. 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
- Organized three orientation sessions on protection, gender and inclusion for 5W reporting focal persons of district chapters. A total of 13 female and 52 male from 40 districts participated in the orientations. Main objective of the sessions was to sensitize district chapter focal persons on PGI issues and encourage them to integrate protection gender inclusion component in COVID-19 response, planning and reporting



NRCS Kathmandu installed shelter shed to operate COVID-19 vaccination service at Kathmandu Metropolitan City COVID-19 operation centre, City Hall (Sabha Griha) (Photo: NRCS Kathmandu)

Shelter and logistics

Key Actions

- Provided 20 kitchen sets, 33 bed sets, 104 tarpaulins, 23 mattresses, 219 blankets and 8 tents to security forces and isolation centres
- 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

- Oriented 65 NRCS staff and volunteers including 13 female from 40 district chapters on web based COVID-19 volunteer data base management system. Following the orientation, the 5W reporting team in district chapters and province offices been entering detail of the volunteers mobilised in the COVID-19 preparedness and response. The database is important for recognition and effective mobilization of volunteers in the operation.
- Activated web based document repository system for storing and sharing COVID-19 preparedness and response related documents.
- NRCS has been issuing COVID-19 response daily report since 18 May 2021. Source of the data for update is NRCS web based 5W database and

Source of sectoral data: 5W report received from NRCS district chapters, province offices and headquarters. For detail, please find the [link](#) for COVID-19 interactive dashboard .

CHALLENGES

- Prohibitory orders in the country have posed challenges on timely transportation of support materials to districts and communities.
- Potential risk of COVID-19 infection has made it difficult to reach vulnerable people with support.

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 case investigation and contact tracing volunteers to support contact tracing at local level.
- NRCS and COVID crisis management Centre (CCMC) have jointly developed dead body management guideline in regards to COVID-19 and disseminated to NRCS district chapters and province offices.
- Government has appreciated positioning of NRCS volunteers at COVID-19 vaccination clinics/centers.
- Dissemination of COVID awareness related message in local language
- NRCS has been able to conduct blood collection campaign and other humanitarian actions under COVID-19 response through strong coordination and partnership with local government and other stakeholders.

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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