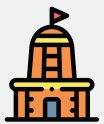
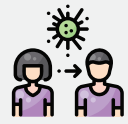


The **Coronavirus CivActs Campaign (CCC)** gathers rumours, concerns and questions from communities across Nepal to eliminate information gaps between the government, media, NGOs and citizens. By providing the public with facts, the CCC ensures a better understanding of needs regarding the coronavirus and debunks rumours before they can do more harm.

Important decisions made by the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 26 Shrawan 2077

- 01/ Hotels and restaurants can only operate the take away service. 
- 02/  Long-distance public transport, international flights, student admissions, educational and other examinations will be closed till September 30.
- 03/ The religious places are not allowed to conduct any other activities except for the daily worship. The businesses operating on sidewalks, open spaces, carts and bicycles are prohibited. 
- 04/  Food and accommodation arrangements for the laborers working in industries, factories and construction sectors should be made within the work area premises. The workers shouldn't be brought from other places for now.
- 05/ Offices that provide services in direct contact with people should be operated with a maximum of 50 % staff in the districts with more than 200 active infection cases and Kathmandu Valley. 

Source: <https://mocit.gov.np/categorydetail/shrawan-27-mp-2077-baithak>

Nepal Update



The police distributing masks to the public to reduce the risks of catching coronavirus in Birendranagar, Surkhet.

Photo: Jagat Daljanala Bik

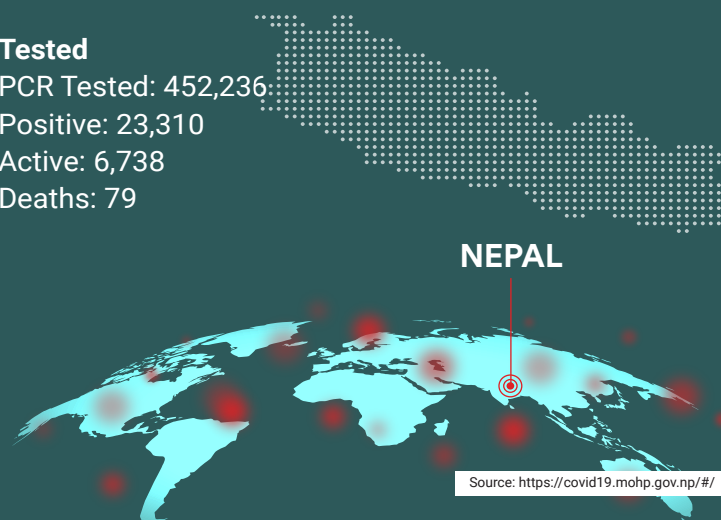
Tested

PCR Tested: 452,236

Positive: 23,310

Active: 6,738

Deaths: 79



NEPAL

Source: <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>

Rumors & Facts



It is said that the government has closed the movement from the international border from 31 Bhadra. It is also said that movement from few border points would be allowed. This doesn't seem clear.

It is said that all entry points of the International border will be closed till 31 Bhadra 2077. However, 10 entry points have been allocated at the Nepal-India borders for Nepalis who want to return Nepal via land from India. The points are 1) Kakadvitta, Jhapa, 2) Rani, Morang 3) Madar, Siraha, 4) Gaur, Rautahat, 5) Birgunj, Parsa, 6) Velhiya, Rupandehi, 7) Krishnanagar, Kapilvastu, 8) Jamunaha, Banke, 9) Gaurifanta, Kailali and 10) Gaddachauki, Kanchanpur. However, if found to be violating the rules, then they would be punished as per the law.

Source: <https://mocit.gov.np/categorydetail/shrawan-27-mp-2077-baithak>



Has the government really halted the process of rescuing the Nepali citizens from abroad?

Currently, as per the decision of Council of Ministers of Nepal Government, it has been said that upto 500 individuals would be given flight permit on a daily basis including 300 individuals on recommendation of the Nepali Diplomatic Mission and 200 Nepali nationals who are to be rescued at the expense of the Foreign Employment Welfare Fund. The number has also been limited as these individuals have to be quarantined at the designated place in the Kathmandu Valley and sent to their respective destination only after it is proved that they are free of infection.

Source: <https://mocit.gov.np/categorydetail/shrawan-27-mp-2077-baithak>



The long distance public transport isn't operating. The assistance required from the Foreign Employment Board is unlikely to be received.

Since it is not possible to provide the financial assistance offered by the Secretariat of the Foreign Employment Board from the office due to COVID - 19, the arrangement has been made for the individual to submit the applications along with other required documents at the local level. The detailed information on this could be obtained from Labor Call Center 1141 or Board Secretariat Phone no. 4220311 or from the website

Source: <http://www.fepb.gov.np/detail/89/suchana>



It is heard that some schools have made the examination schedule of grade 11 public. Will the examinations be conducted in the current situation?

The government of Nepal hasn't yet made any decisions to reopen the schools. The meeting of Council of Ministers held on July 10 has decided that the schools admissions and examinations that were said to resume from 1 Bhadra by following the health safety guidelines has been halted until 16 Bhadra, due to the increase in the infection of COVID-19. Thus, the government has informed all the concerned authorities to not carry out any activities related to examination until the decisions are taken to re-operate the schools.

Source: http://www.neb.gov.np/uploads/photos/V5_1SjUkf8200807065825.PNG

To receive our regular updates through WhatsApp

1. Add +27 60 080 6146 to your contact list.
2. Send a message saying **Nepal** to the contact.



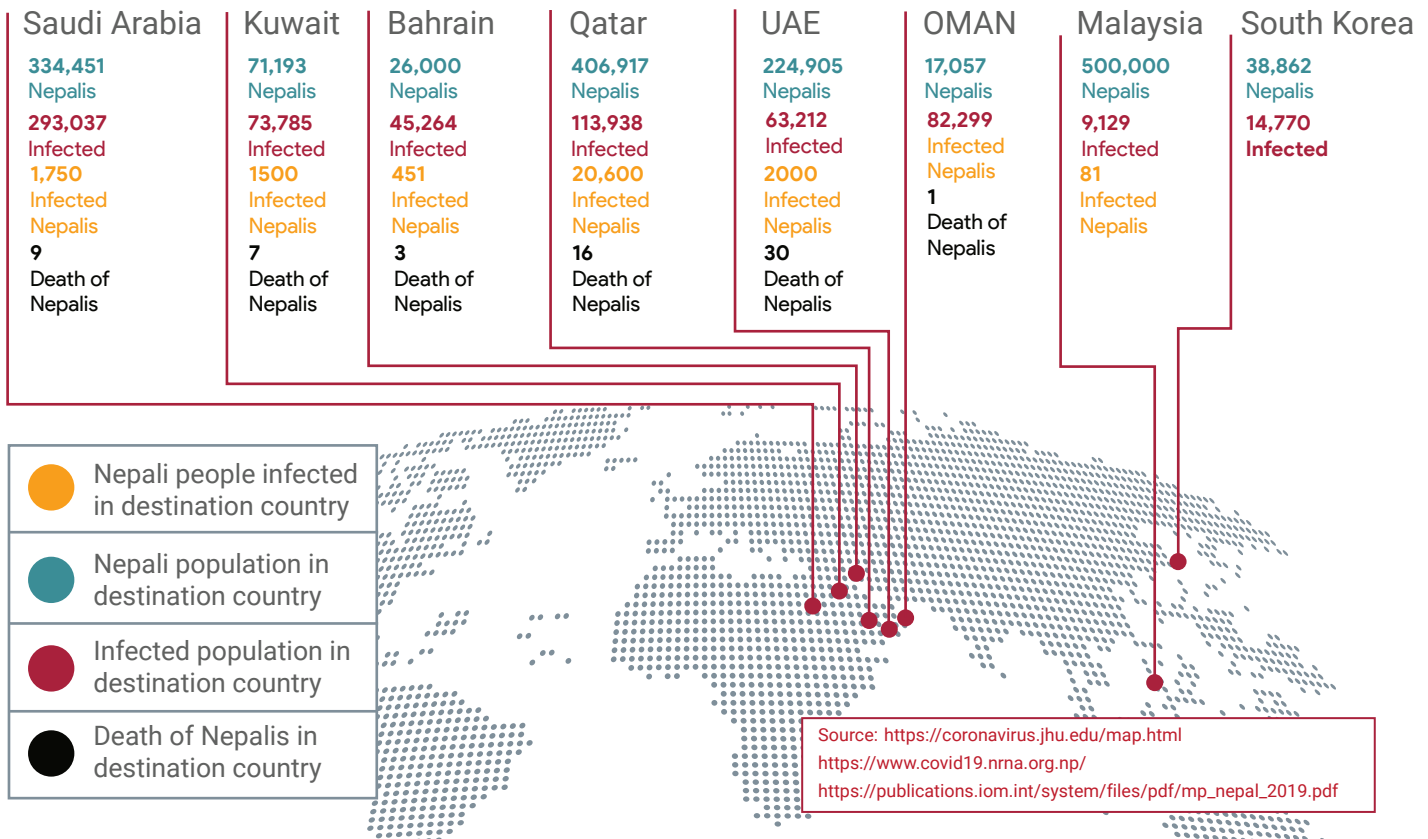
Toll-free **HOTLINE** on
COVID-19

Brought to you by  **viamo**

DIAL 32100
from your NTC simcard for accessing
all COVID-19 information for FREE

Open Migration

Migrant workers in major destination countries



ShramikSanjal

Are you returning to UAE after the holidays? Pay attention to these points

The individuals who are working in **UAE** and need to return to the country after the holidays were supposed to get permission from two places (**ICA/GDRFA**). However, it will no longer be needed from 12 August. But **ICA** has published a notice that the steps mentioned below should be followed:

1. Update your data by going to www.uaeentry.ica.gov.ae
2. Conduct the PCR test for the Nepal government authorized lab before approaching to Airline for a ticket
3. Purchase a **flight ticket**
4. Take a **PCR negative report** along with other document while going to airport
5. Give the sample for PCR test after reaching the UAE airport
6. Download the **AI Hosn mobile application** and upload your data
7. You have to stay in home quarantine if you test positive in PCR test. Follow its rules properly. If found not following the home quarantine rules, you might be fined up to 50,000 Dirham.

You can listen to our facebook live at www.facebook.com/shramik.sanjali every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evening **UAE time (8: 00 PM)**, **Kuwait (7: 00 PM)** and **Malaysia (12 Midnight)**.

\$ Follow the Money

Total

Federal Government

Spent

The budget allocated from Nepal Government and Ministry of Finance in three rounds

Around 1.48B NRS

The total fund in Coronavirus Infection Prevention, Treatment and Control Fund

Around 2.26B NRS

Donors

250M USD ADB
28.7M USD World Bank
130.9M USD IMF
82M USD European Union

The total expenditure of Nepal government's activities against Coronavirus

Around 1.8B NRS

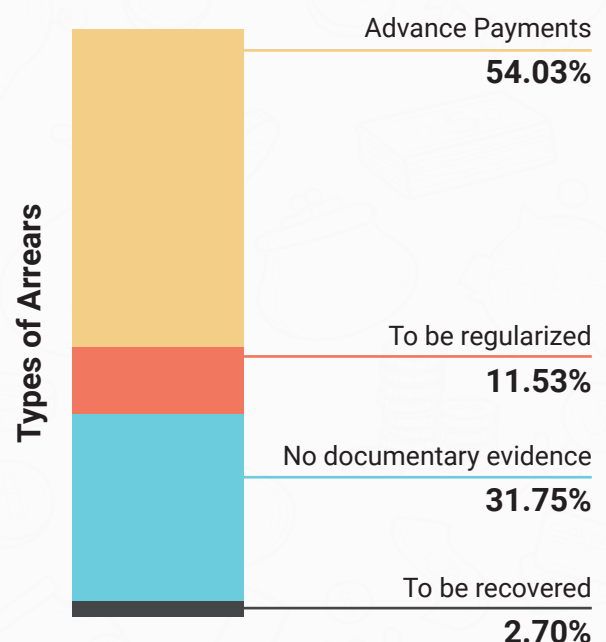
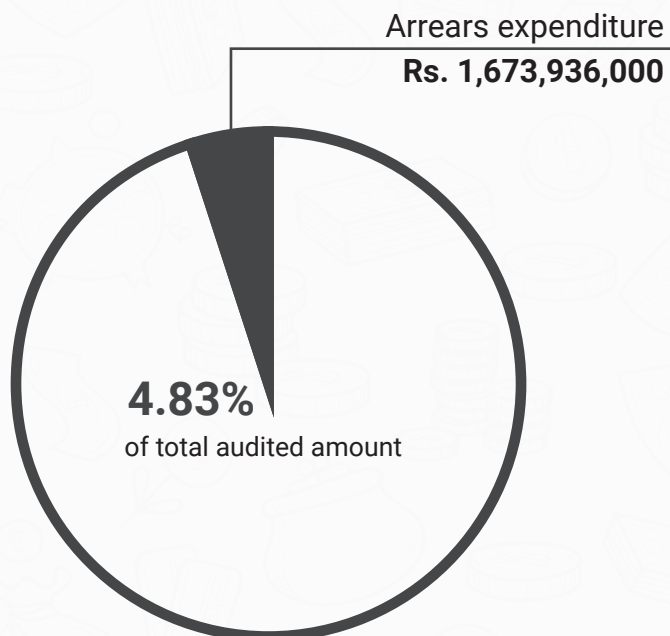
The Ministry of Defence for the purchase of health equipment to prevent and control COVID-19 released

Around 2.34B NRS

Provincial Government

Province Names	Province 1	Province 2	Bagmati Province	Gandaki Province	Province 5	Karnali Province	Sudurpaschim Province
Total Amount	Around 294M NRS	Around 266M NRS	Around 429M NRS	Around 183M NRS	Around 156M NRS	Around 254M NRS	Around 425M NRS
Spent Amount	Around 193M NRS	Around 133M NRS	Around 136M NRS	Around 154M NRS	Around 779M NRS	Around 239M NRS	Around 364M NRS

Arrears status of Province 1 in Fiscal Year 2075/2076



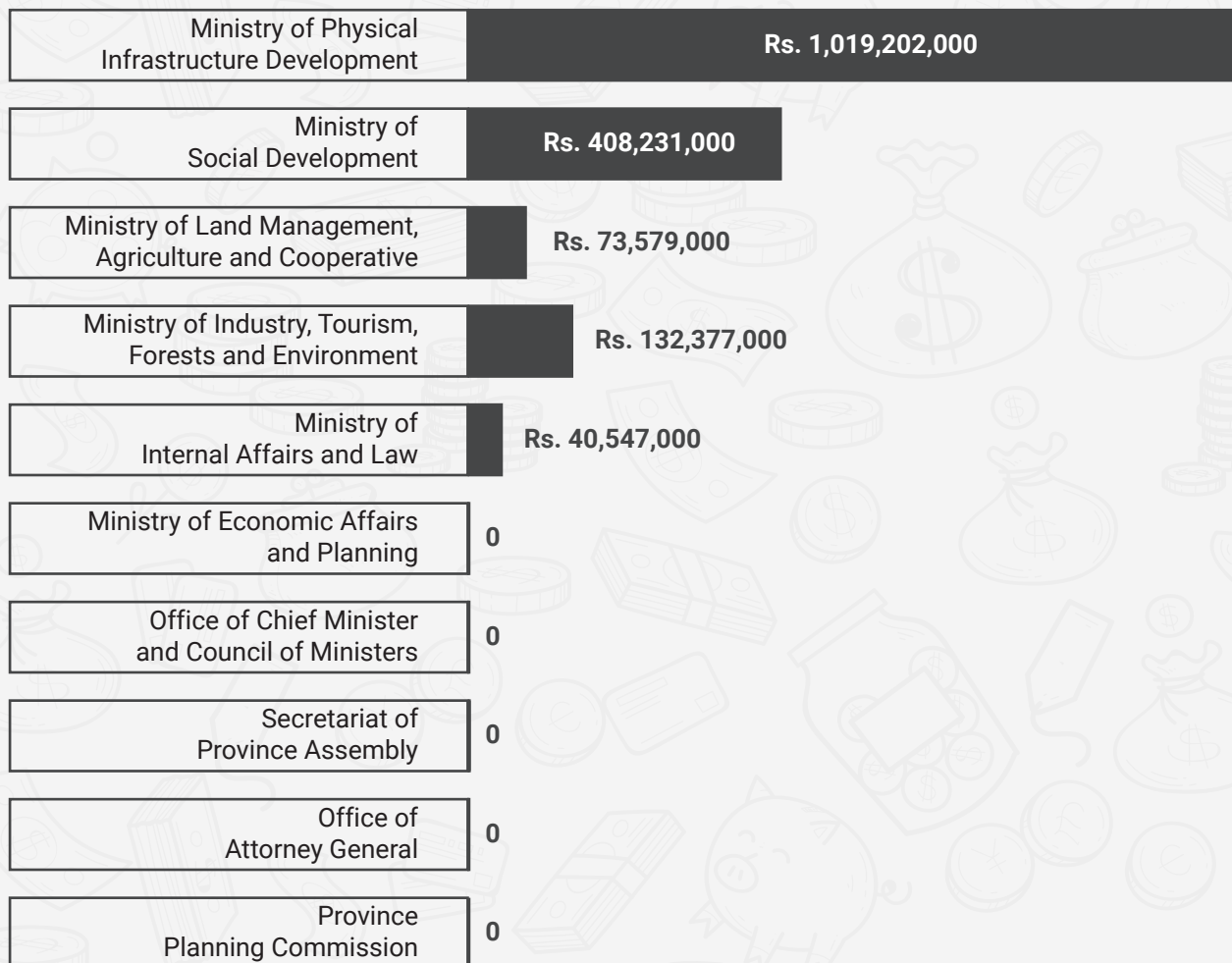
TOTAL AUDITED AMOUNT
34.6 BILLION NRS

TOTAL AGENCIES AUDITED
200

AGENCIES WITH ARREARS
72

\$ Follow the Money

Comparison of ministries and their Arrears expenditure of Province 1 in fiscal year 2075/2076



Province 1 has an arrear amount of over 1.6 billion NRS, which is 4.83% of its total audited amount. The arrears amount is very high, but the overall budget is also very high in Province 1. Only 36% of its agencies (72 out of 200) have arrears which is a good sign. Having a comparatively lower number of agencies with arrears shows a good sign because it means less agencies need to be properly monitored. Province 1 has very high advance payments (54%) while over 31% of all arrears occurred because no documentary evidence or supplementary information could not be produced. Spending without proper documentation pertains to unethical practices within an agency and actions to prevent them should be taken immediately.

As not many agencies have arrears in Province 1, majority of the amount comes from specific ministries. The ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development had over 60% of all arrears in this province while the Ministry of Social Development covered 24% of it. This shows that much needed funds in priority areas are either not being fulfilled or are not documented properly to cater to actual public needs. The ministries concerning agriculture, tourism and internal affairs also had substantial amounts of arrears which need to be properly monitored and minuted by the provincial government to ensure better financial management and development in the current fiscal year.

Note: This information is not complete. It has been brought together from different sources available. We will keep collecting the data and revise it in the days ahead.



Frontliner's Voices



Dr. Mangal Rawal

Director, Karnali Institute Health Sciences, Jumla

"We had formed the COVID-19 Task Force at Karnali Institute of Health Sciences on 11 Falgun itself. The task force worked to raise public awareness among stakeholders. We have been suggesting that the government should replicate the model of human resource mobilization of Karnali Institute of Health Sciences for corona control across the country. The Karnali Institute of Health Sciences, in coordination with the Karnali province government, had sent 42 doctors to 19 strategic locations in the villages. We had sent the doctors to the villages as it was not easy to refer patients during the lockdown. If the government pays attention to mobilizing human resources to various establishments in the same model, it will be easier to control the spread of corona".

Karuna Bhattarai

Public Health Officer, Social Development Ministry, Karnali Province

"In the last fiscal year, there was not enough budget in the province for corona control. As the development activities were halted due to lockdown, we transferred the amount and established the Corona Control Fund. This pandemic has taught us that we must allocate more budget for disasters. We are currently coordinating with hospitals, the federal government, provincial ministries and the local government. We have been regularly providing press briefings, press notes and the situation of coronavirus infection in Karnali, situation of prevention and control and various other relevant data through the facebook page of the Ministry."



Chandika Adhikari

Staff Nurse, Jaleswor COVID -19 Hospital, Mahottari

"Many infected individuals suddenly came to the isolation of the Jaleswor COVID-19 Hospital on 11 Jestha. Although Jaleswor Hospital only had 15 beds, it was initially increased to 50 beds to accommodate the infected individuals. On the first day when the infected case was admitted, the health workers and other staff stopped coming to the hospital out of fear. After proper consultation, everyone came to the hospital. Even now the rate of the infected cases hasn't decreased. Initially there was a lot of confusion as how to wear PPE and its disposal. But now, everything is returning to normal."

While New Zealand is becoming corona free, Nepal is heading towards high-risk

The first infection of COVID-19 in Nepal was confirmed on 9 Magh 2076. During that time, the sample had to be sent outside the country for testing. Today, there are 38 laboratories in the country that can test upto 20,000 samples per day. The virus that originated in China had already spread to Europe and the Middle East. At the time, when the world was moving forward on the basis of speculation, it is futile to argue about what Nepal's preparations were. However, the only way to avoid possible danger was to announce the lockdown at the time. Therefore, the lockdown was imposed from 11 Chaitra 2076 or lets say, 24 March 2020 in Nepal. During the time, a total of 610 tests were conducted in Nepal and only two of them were confirmed positive for the virus. If we make a comparative study, then we can observe that the only country in the world which has been recently declared corona-free had recorded 102 infected cases, until 25 March 2020 i.e the day after Nepal imposed a lockdown.



How did New Zealand become successful?



In February 2020, a man died of coronavirus outside of China in the Philippines. The next day, when not a single individual in New Zealand was confirmed of infection in New Zealand, the country barred all the foreigners entering the country through China and kept it's citizens who came through the route in isolation for 14 days. When the first infection was confirmed on March 16, then it also sent the citizens coming from non-infected areas to stay in self-isolation. Following that, the president made a "make no apology" declaration and completely closed the border points. The country then implemented a "Fair Stage Alert System". By the time, the country implemented the system, the situation had reached the second stage. On 25 March, the situation reached the fourth stage and a lockdown was announced. The country's flow of information and implementation of the lockdown resulted most effective. This is how it became corona-free. There is still a challenge of sustaining it. However, it is true that it has become an example to the world.

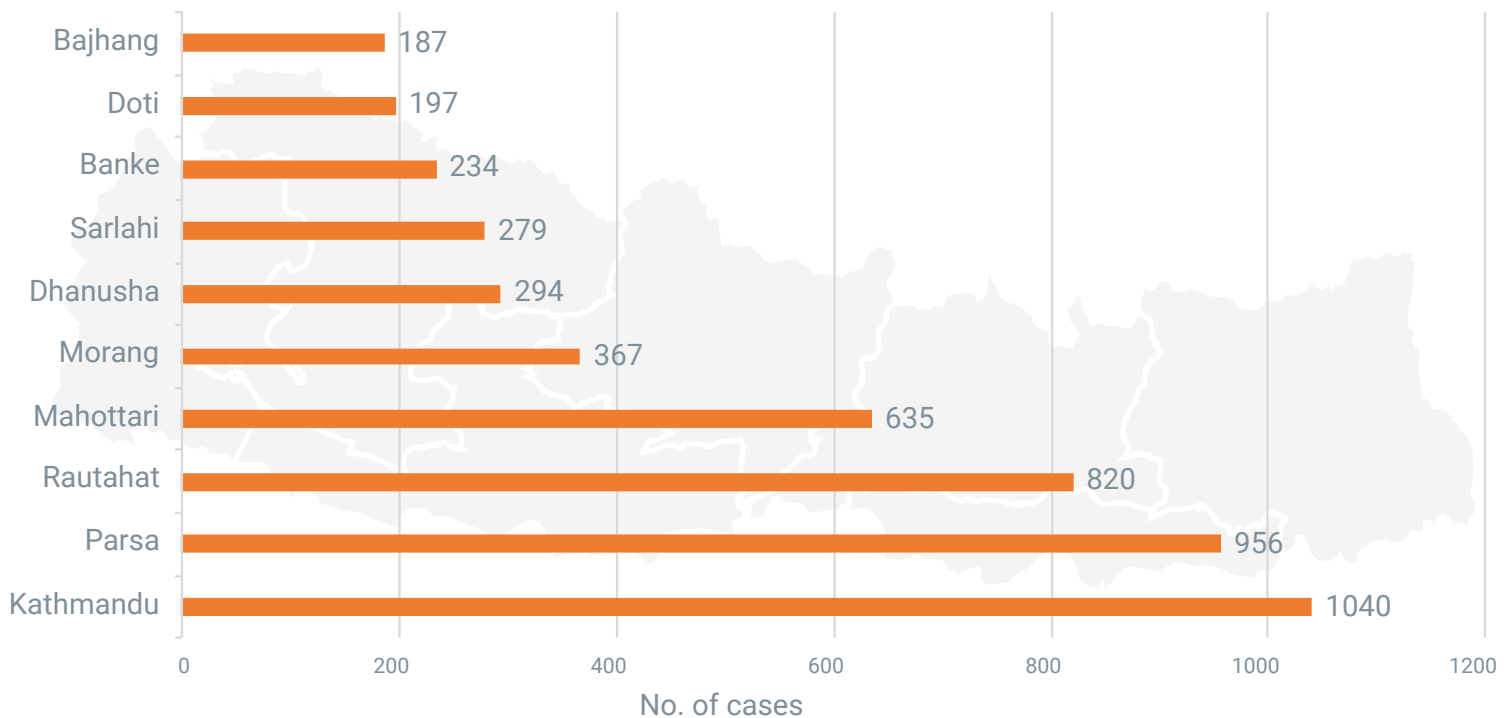
Where did Nepal go wrong?

The question arises, what did Nepal not do? Yes, Nepal also did what New Zealand did. However, while New Zealand has zero infection, Nepal is being pushed into a more precarious situation. The infection is spreading at a rapid pace at the community level as both who follow and who enforce the rules do not understand its seriousness in Nepal. And neither there could be adequate preparation and effective management on the part of the government. The government also was unable to follow the model of Human Resource Mobilization from Karnali Province. Adding to that, most of the time was spent discussing and justifying the irregularities about the import of medicines and health equipment.



Suresh Chand

Ten Districts With Highest Number Of Active Cases



The above graph shows ten districts with the highest number of active cases. Among these, Kathmandu tops the chart with 1040 active cases. These districts combined have about two-third of the active cases in Nepal. On the other hand, only six districts do not have any active cases. Districts with high concentration of cases like Kathmandu, Parsa have already reported community transmission. Remaining one-third of the cases are scattered across over 60 districts. This has two implications: 1) In districts with high concentration of cases, cases are likely to surge as lockdown is loosened and, 2) if proper contact tracing and travel management is not done other districts are likely to witness rapid surge as well.

Source: HEOC, MoHP, SitRep

DISCLAIMER

The sources of rumors, information, and issues presented here are collected from a variety of organizations, government agencies, international organizations, news articles, social media, and Community Frontliners in all 7 provinces of Nepal, as well as the CivActs team based on their conversations with over 2000 people in August 2020. The issues highlighted are chosen based on prevalence, relevance, and its potential impact on society. The information presented here is correct at the time of the issue.

Coronavirus CivActs Campaign is brought to you by Accountability Lab Nepal.

