

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.

The following services will be operated in Kathmandu Valley during the prohibitory order

- 01 The shops selling and distributing medicines, water and health products and can be opened at any time.
- 02 The shops selling food items, milk products, fruits, vegetables, fish and meat can be opened till 11:00 AM.
- 03 The shops/business related to development and construction as well as the vehicles used for transporting their goods can be operated from 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM.
- 04 The takeaway service can be operated only by the individuals who confirm RT-PCR negative.
- 05 Home delivery of essential goods is allowed. But, the goods should be delivered only by the individuals who test RDT-PCR negative. (This service can be operated only after the guidelines are issued).
- 06 Transportation from airport to quarantine or isolation or hotel can be operated.
- 07 Bank and financial institutions should operate services through one third of the total number of employees.

Source: <https://daokathmandu.moha.gov.np/public/upload/>

Nepal Update



Single Women Society Kavrepalanchok supporting 10 single women from families with low economic strata at Banepa Municipality, Kavrepalanchok.

Photo: Keshav Raj Poudel

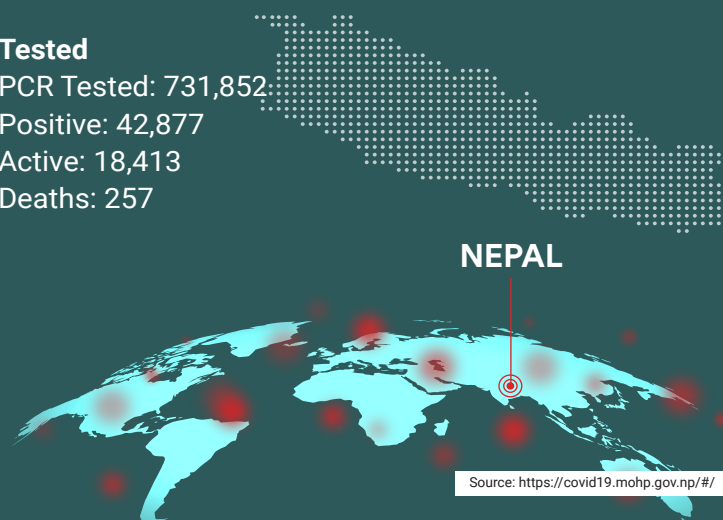
Tested

PCR Tested: 731,852

Positive: 42,877

Active: 18,413

Deaths: 257



NEPAL

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

Rumors & Facts



It is heard that now the lockdown will be imposed only in the districts with more than 500 infected cases.

The Ministry of Health and Population has requested to impose lockdown in districts with more than 500 cases and prohibitory order in districts with more than 200 infected cases. However, the framework of the lockdown will be decided by the District Administration Office in coordination with DCCMC and the notice will be issued by the CDO.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/mohpnep/videos/633192894296668>



Although the government has said it will operate regular flights, it is heard that flights won't be made to all Gulf countries. What is the truth?

The government has decided not to allow the regular flights from countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and other countries where RDT-PCR testing is not easily accessible. The government has instead decided to permit charter flights in those countries where regular flights aren't allowed to repatriate the individuals recommended by the Nepali Embassies abroad, the laborers who want to return Nepal on their own or employer's expense, and those who want to return Nepal at their expense because their contract period has expired. But, the repatriation of only upto 800 individuals has been permitted in a day for regular and charter flights.

Source: <https://moh.gov.np/categorydetail/2077-bhadra-14-cabinet>



It is heard that the corona infected patients will be discharged in 10 days from now onwards.

So far, the corona infection has been confirmed in 118 prisoners across the country. Of these, 48 prisoners have recovered, 69 are undergoing treatment and one has died. In the case of Kathmandu Valley, the Ayurveda Research and Training Center at Kirtipur is being used as an isolation to keep the infected prisoners and the factory in the premises of the training center at Sundhara Central Jail is being constructed as an isolation center. Moreover, the government is also making arrangements for the prisoners to get treatment from the health worker inside the prison office.

Source: <https://www.moha.gov.np/post/press-release-2035>



The government did announce that the cost of corona testing has been reduced. However, some say the price is Rs.4,000 whereas some say it's Rs.4,400. Why is there this difference?

Rs.4,400 fee has been fixed in the hospitals which do not conduct PCR tests but collect the samples. Out of Rs.4,400, Rs. 4000 is to be paid as a fee to the laboratory where the sample is going to be tested. The remaining Rs. 400 is charged for the VTM, PPE and other equipment used for the sample collection. If a laboratory collects and tests the samples on its own, Rs. 4,000 has been fixed as a maximum test fee.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/mohpnep/videos/326014082179064>

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2. Send a message saying **Nepal** to the contact.



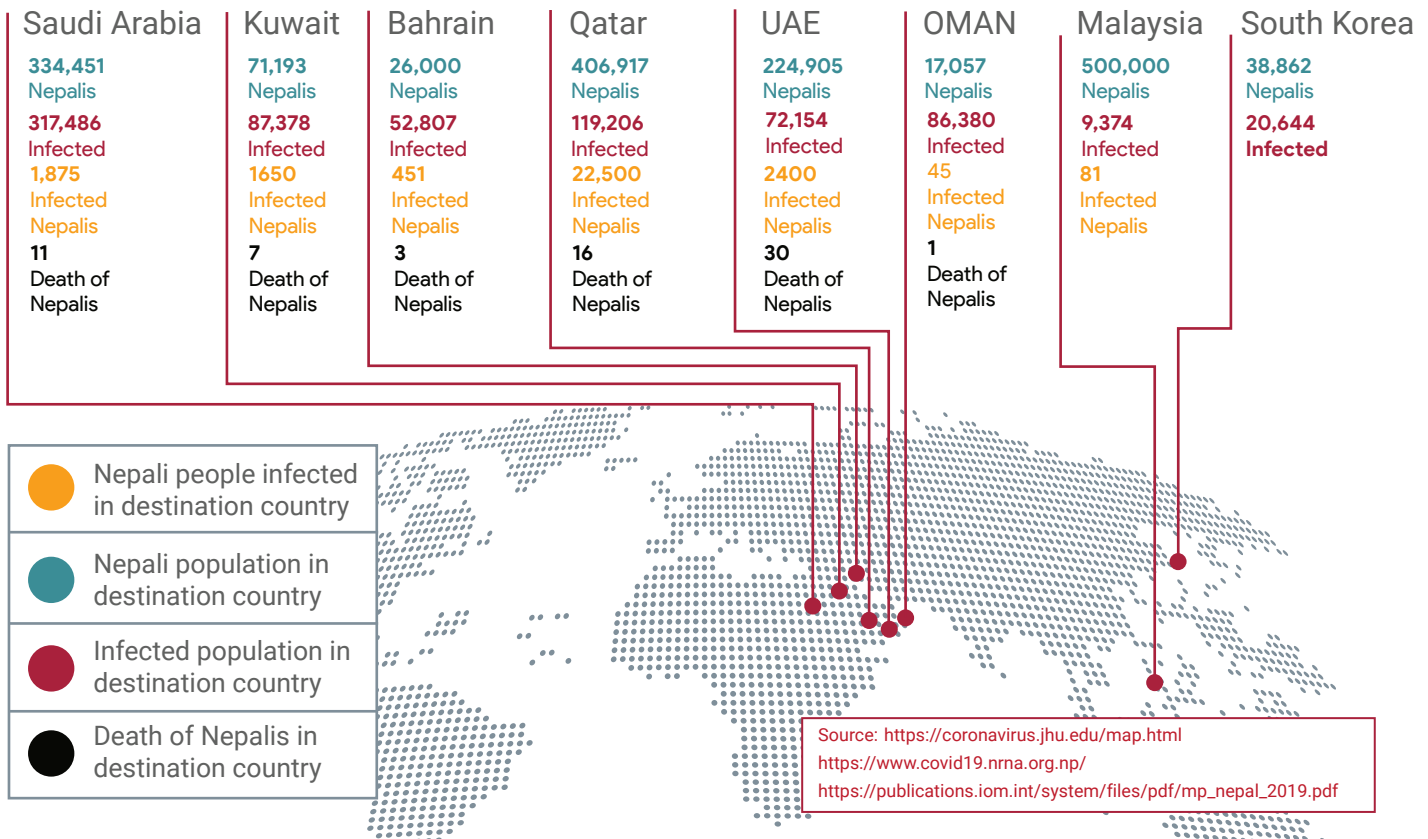
Toll-free **HOTLINE** on
COVID-19

Brought to you by 

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

Open Migration

Migrant workers in major destination countries



ShramikSanjal

Important notices from Nepal, Kuwait and UAE

Nepal

With the decision to start a new labor permit, the Department of Foreign Employment has informed that the final labor permit will be given to those who have obtained the permit before 29 Falgun. However, it has been said that a no objection certificate (NOC) is required from the company for this. Those who want to go on an individual labor permit are also required to have no objection certificate (NOC).

The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation has made a rule that the airlines aren't allowed to keep the flight fare more than Nepal Airlines and Himalayan Airlines after the foreign airlines started fixing their own fares for regular flights. Also, a few days ago, Air Arabia took more than the prescribed fee, kept together the passengers with RDT- PCR test and made them spend a lot on hotel accommodation. So, an order has been issued to refund the amount.

Kuwait

From now on, you don't have to make an appointment to go to the supermarket. Earlier, you could go to the supermarket to shop only with an appointment.

UAE

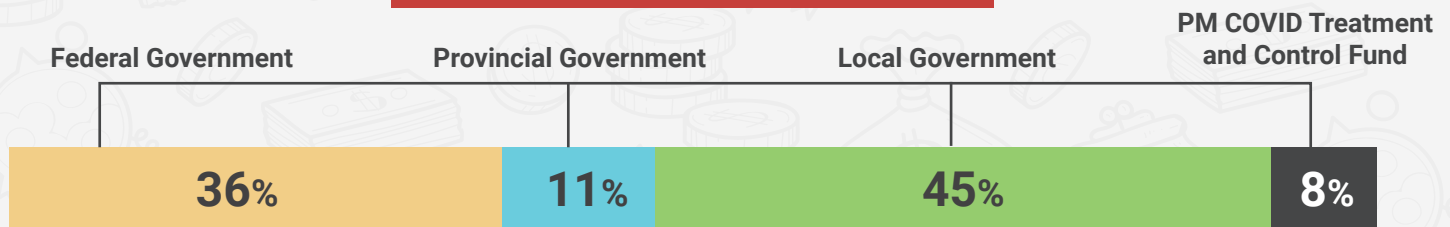
Even though the schools were said to be open, the classes have resumed online again after parents felt unsafe to send their children to school.

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

\$ Follow the Money

Total expenses by the Government of Nepal until Shrawan 2077 to Fight Against Coronavirus

13.37 Billion NRS



Expense Headings at the Federal Government



Medicine and Health Equipments
Rs. 1,755,240,000



Quarantine Management
Rs. 46,946,000



Health Infrastructure
Rs. 2,938,896,000

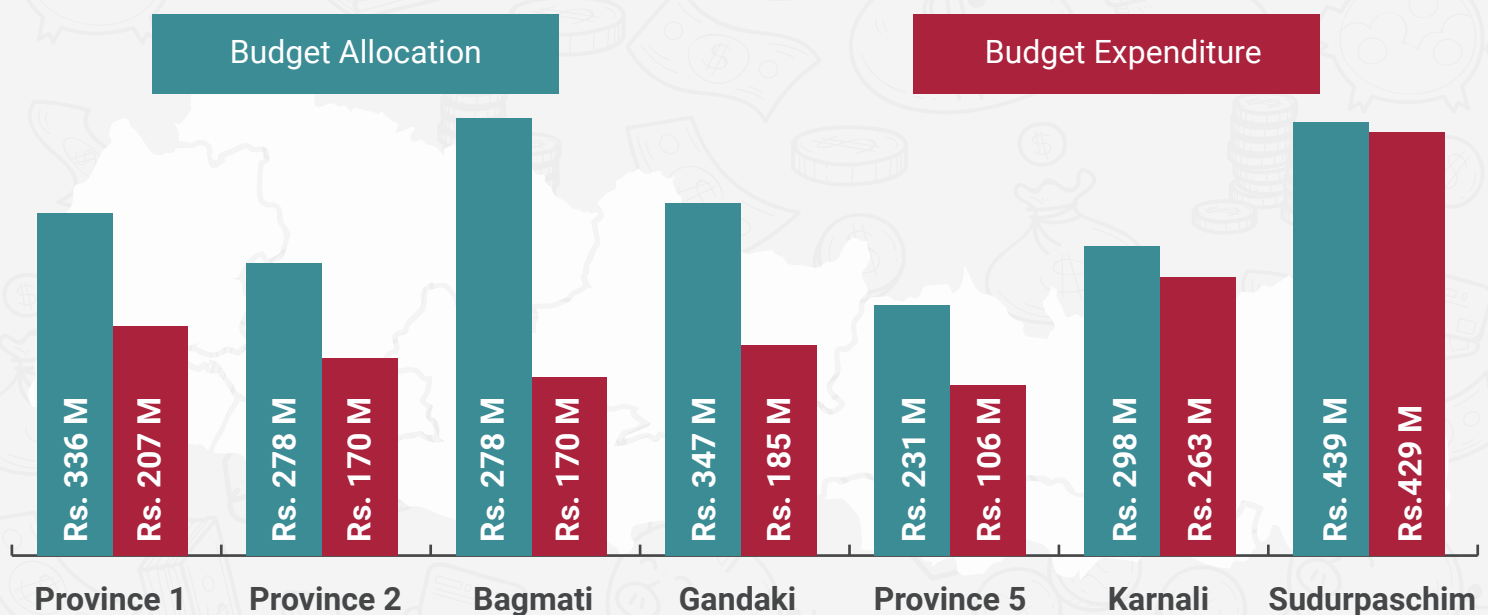


Other Expenses
Rs. 12,473,000



Human Resource Mobilization
Rs. 57,443,000

Expense made by Provincial Government



\$ Follow the Money

CITIZEN PERCEPTION ON

Awareness about **LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES**



28%
Yes



72%
No

Federal government's **EFFECTIVENESS IN SPENDING**



1%
Excellent



6%
Good



21%
Satisfactory



52%
Unsatisfactory



21%
Poor

A nation-wide survey conducted by Civic Action Teams (CivActs) with 750 participants to capture citizen's perception on the government's response concerning Coronavirus suggested that only 28% of the people were aware about their local government's spending. Each local government has been urged to share their total expenses on corona response in the last fiscal year, and yet, 72% of the respondents were completely unaware about it. This could both be because of a lack of transparency in government or a lack of interest in the public. Nevertheless, this should pique the interests of the citizens and they need to demand this information to hold their governments accountable.

Similarly, the majority of respondents (52%) were unsatisfied with the federal government's spending to fight against the coronavirus while 21% had even higher concerns. A significant reason for this is also a lack of proper communication strategy on the government's side. Understanding the public's perception, the government should take this matter very seriously to build trust with its citizens.

*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.*



Frontliners Voices



Ratna Bahadur Khadka

Chairperson

Narayan Municipality, Dailekh

"The Narayan Municipality of Dailekh which I have been leading as a local representative became the hotspot of COVID-19. Even now, the situation hasn't become normal. We started testing by purchasing a PCR machine with the help of the locals of the area and the budget of the municipality. Now again we will be facing a big challenge. Many people are coming to Karnali from India for Dashain and Tihar. If they aren't managed properly, the situation becomes very difficult. In this situation, the province government and federal government need to coordinate with the local government to prevent and respond to corona".

Srijana Mahat

Isolation Ward Incharge, BSC Nursing

"Initially, it was very difficult for us health workers. We didn't have PPEs. We at Karnali Institute of Health Sciences started making PPE here itself and started our work. Since we had to stay in direct contact with corona patients while working, there was a huge fear that I would also get infected. There was no certainty about life or death. The family and relatives were constantly worried. But despite the circumstances, we continued to work. No we aren't as afraid as before. We are working with complete safety."



Gopal Jung Rayamajhi

Police Inspector, District Police Office, Surkhet

"We are constantly on duty from 5 AM to 2 PM. We worked to spread awareness in all 16 wards of Birendranagar in coordination with the community police and local municipality. We didn't have the resources. There was also no human resource in the district. There was no health equipment. The same mask had to be applied continuously for two to three days. Sanitizer and gloves were not available. We would ask others to wear masks and gloves, but we did not have them. That's how we worked. Initially, people followed the lockdown and helped us too. However, the habit of violating rules is gradually increasing among people".



Is the government rescuing the real victims who are stranded abroad?



Experience 1

Hazrat Ali of Banke is currently in Saudi Arabia. Although the work in the company he works for hasn't stopped due to corona, the working environment of the company is worrying. He constantly fears that he might get infected from somewhere when he has to work without the necessary equipment. According to the previous agreement to return home after two years, his term has now expired. Even though the company arranged him a ticket, he hasn't been able to return to Nepal due to the ban in international flights. He has been regularly contacting the Nepali Embassy in Saudi Arabia to fly back. But, even after one month, there is no information about the flight.

Experience 2

Shankar Rijal of Banke has been in Malaysia for a year. The company he was supposed to work for after leaving Nepal didn't pay him the salary even after five months. He got into trouble when he confessed about returning to Nepal but the company asked him to buy a ticket at his own expense. In the end, when no alternative was available, he ran away from the company and started working in another company illegally with the help of a friend. He even decided to return to Nepal after saving some money. He purchased the ticket to Nepal paying one lakh for the next day, but on the same night, he received the news that international flights from Nepal were cancelled. He says that he has made several efforts to return home and hopes that the Nepal government will rescue him.

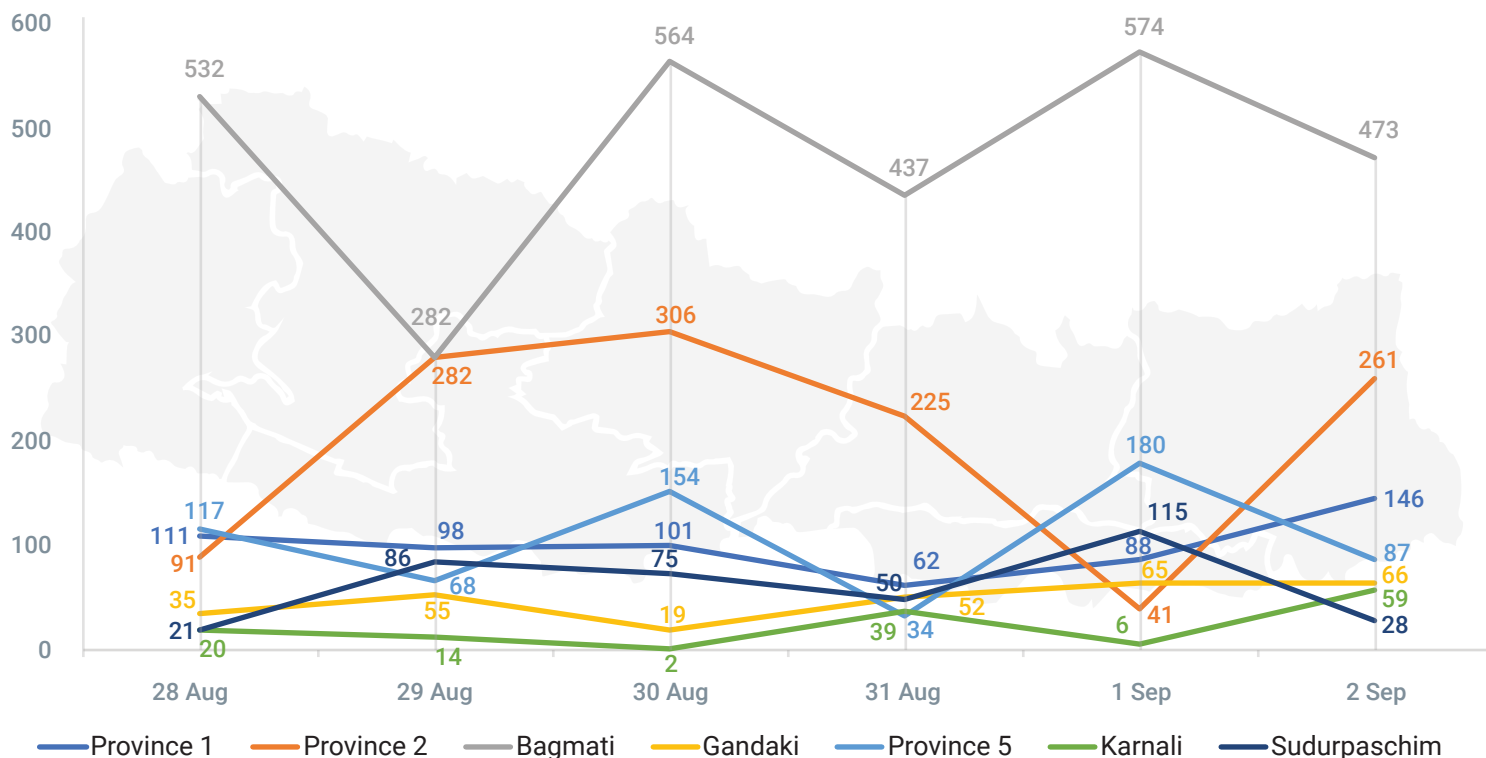
Experience 3

Lalit K.C from Banke is in Malaysia for more than 3 years. The company he works for was closed 80 days ago due to corona. Until the closing period, the company paid him 50% of his monthly salary. Even though there is no problem with work at the moment, he constantly gets worried if he would become infected. According to him, the one way ticket that would cost 5 to 6 Ringgit earlier now costs 15 to 100 Ringgit. It has become three times more expensive than before. How to purchase the ticket? The difficulty has increased more ever since the company said that it will not bear any cost.



All three incidents above represent the reality of the Nepali workers currently stranded in foreign destinations. Has the government considered rescuing the individuals as represented above in its rescue plan for the Nepali migrants facing difficulties abroad?

Province-wise daily new cases of COVID-19



The above line graph shows the daily active cases in each province of Nepal for the last 6 days. It is clearly visible that Bagmati province is experiencing rapid surge in daily cases compared to other provinces. In fact, Bagmati has more daily cases than Province 1, Gandaki, Province 5, Karnali and Sudurpaschim province combined. Province 2 has recorded the second highest number of cases in this period. Majority of cases in Bagmati are now seen in Kathmandu valley. Bagmati and Province 2 seem to be the riskiest provinces if the same trend continues for days to come.

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.



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