

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.

Management methods for rescue flights which will be resumed from 1 September, 2020

- 01 Limit the number of daily arrival passengers to 500.
- 02 Operate regular flights for the individuals who are allowed to come to Nepal from countries and cities where RT-PCR test is convenient.
- 03 Set up charter flights as per the list recommended by Nepali diplomatic mission for the laborers in the countries where the regular flights aren't operated.
- 04 Those arriving on a regular flight should bring a RT-PCR "-ve" report conducted within 72 hours along with the form and proof about a hotel booked for at least 7 days.
- 05 Passengers have to pay the hotel expenses along with the air ticket fare.
- 06 Those coming from the rescue flight at the expense of the Foreign Employment Welfare Fund will be kept in a collective quarantine and the expense will be borne by the government.
- 07 Those confirmed as RT-PCR "-ve" and those who haven't done the RT-PCR test aren't allowed to be brought in the same flight.

Source: https://www.nhrcnepal.org/nhrc_new/doc/newsletter/

Nepal Update



The Mayor of Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City meeting individuals infected with Corona at their home quarantine with ayurvedic medicines and letter wishing good health

Photo: [Bhawani Prasad Pandey](#)

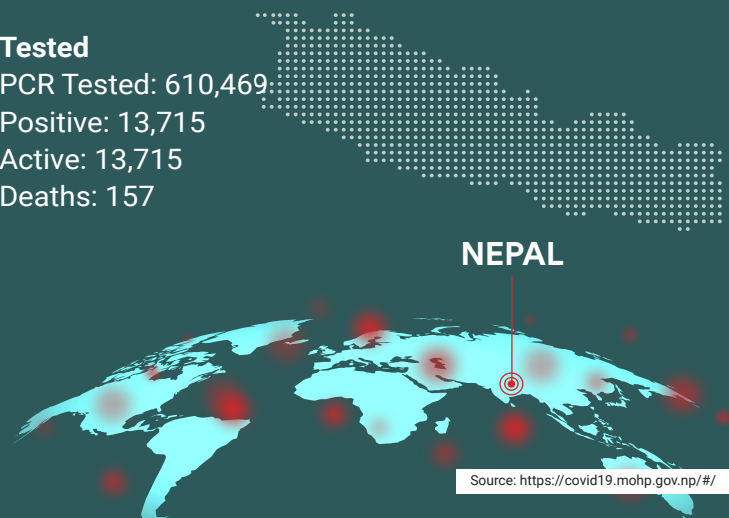
Tested

PCR Tested: 610,469

Positive: 13,715

Active: 13,715

Deaths: 157



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

Rumors & Facts



The government has allocated hotel quarantines for Nepali nationals coming from abroad. Can the returnees choose the hotels themselves or has to stay where the government tells them?

The government has set a criteria that the Nepali nations who have to return home due to COVID-19 have to stay in hotel quarantine for at least seven days upon their arrival. The government has made the list of hotels with a total 3,500 beds public for this. Along with the list, the government has also made public the rate of the hotels according to their standard, bed capacity and contact details. The concerned Nepali citizens returning home can choose the hotels according to their capacity. Go through the link below for more details.

Source: <https://daokathandu.moha.gov.np/public/>



The number of individuals infected is increasing on a daily basis. The number of isolation beds is very few. There is a fear among the public about what they should do if they become infected. What is the government doing on this?

The government is currently managing at least 6,000 isolation beds in the Kathmandu Valley. In districts other than the Kathmandu Valley, the Office of the Chief Minister and the Council of Minister will assess the risk of infection and make arrangements for isolation beds. The government has decided to provide the necessary budget for its management and operation from the Corona Infection Prevention, Control and Treatment Fund and the security arrangements for the isolation will be made by Nepal Army.

Source: <https://mocit.gov.np/categorydetail/bhadau-4-cabinet-decisions-2077>



It is seen that the government has spent more than Nrs. 1 Lakh on a single Corona test? Is the Corona test so costly?

A total of 5,79,899 individuals have undergone RT-PCR test until 5 Bhadra 2077. The government has spent Nrs. 3,18,95,445 alone in laboratory tests so far. Moreover, 30,483 individuals have been tested positive for the virus as of now. So, it means the government spends Nrs. 1,04,620 to identify a single infected individual. It signifies that the cost is not spent just for an infected individual but for the total cost of testing. The government meant that the cost of finding a single infected individual is Nrs. 1,046,620 when the total expenditure is divided by the number of infected individuals.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/mohpnep/videos/243753580258358>



It is heard that the Karnali Province Government has given high priority to the program targeting the workers who have returned home due to COVID. Is this true?

In the budget of the current fiscal year 2077/78 brought by the Karnali Province Government, the topic of creating employment for the families affected by corona has been given a high priority. A total of Nrs. 1 Arab 20 crore has been allocated for employment centered infrastructure development programs. Similarly, a total of Nrs. 6 Arab 54 Crores has been allocated in the budget of Karnali Province government for various programs to promote employment and carry out development works at the same time. It is 19.38 percent of the total budget.


Source: [http://moeap.karnali.gov.np/uploads/files/Budget%20Book%202077%20\(for%20Website\).pdf](http://moeap.karnali.gov.np/uploads/files/Budget%20Book%202077%20(for%20Website).pdf)

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



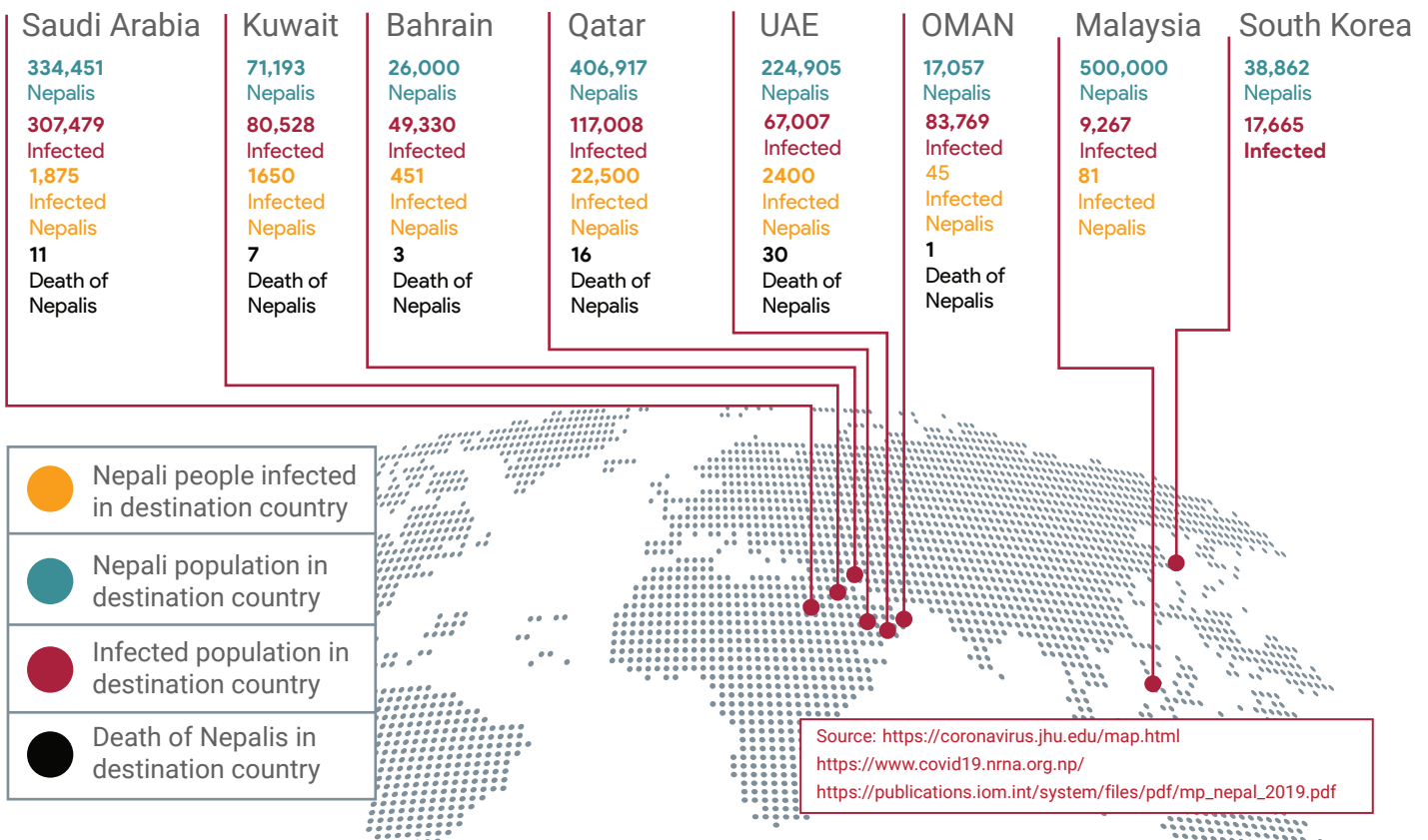
Toll-free **HOTLINE** on
COVID-19

Brought to you by 

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

Open Migration

Migrant workers in major destination countries



ShramikSanjal

Important Information relating Rescue Flights

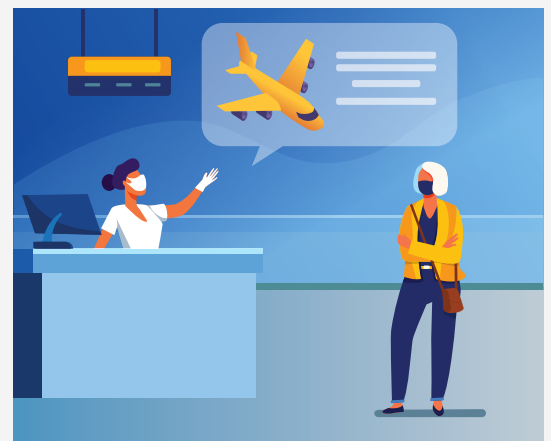
While the Nepal government has closed the charter flights until further notice, it has decided to operate regular flights to some countries from 1st September. These flights will be resumed for countries where PCR test is convenient. In case of other countries, charter flights will be made possible at the special request of the diplomatic mission.

The countries where regular flights will take place:

Malaysia, UAE, South Korea, Thailand, Japan, China, Hongkong, Australia, America, Canada and European countries

The individuals allowed to come to Nepal:

Only the Nepali citizens and diplomats, employees in the Nepali diplomatic mission abroad, and employees of the United Nations.

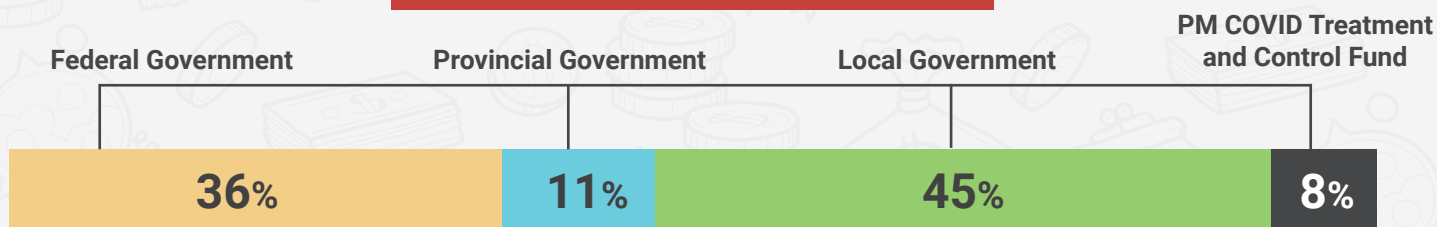


You can listen to our Facebook live at www.facebook.com/shramik.sanjal every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evening **UAE time (8: 00 PM), Kuwait (7: 00 PM) and Malaysia (12 Midnight).**

\$ 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

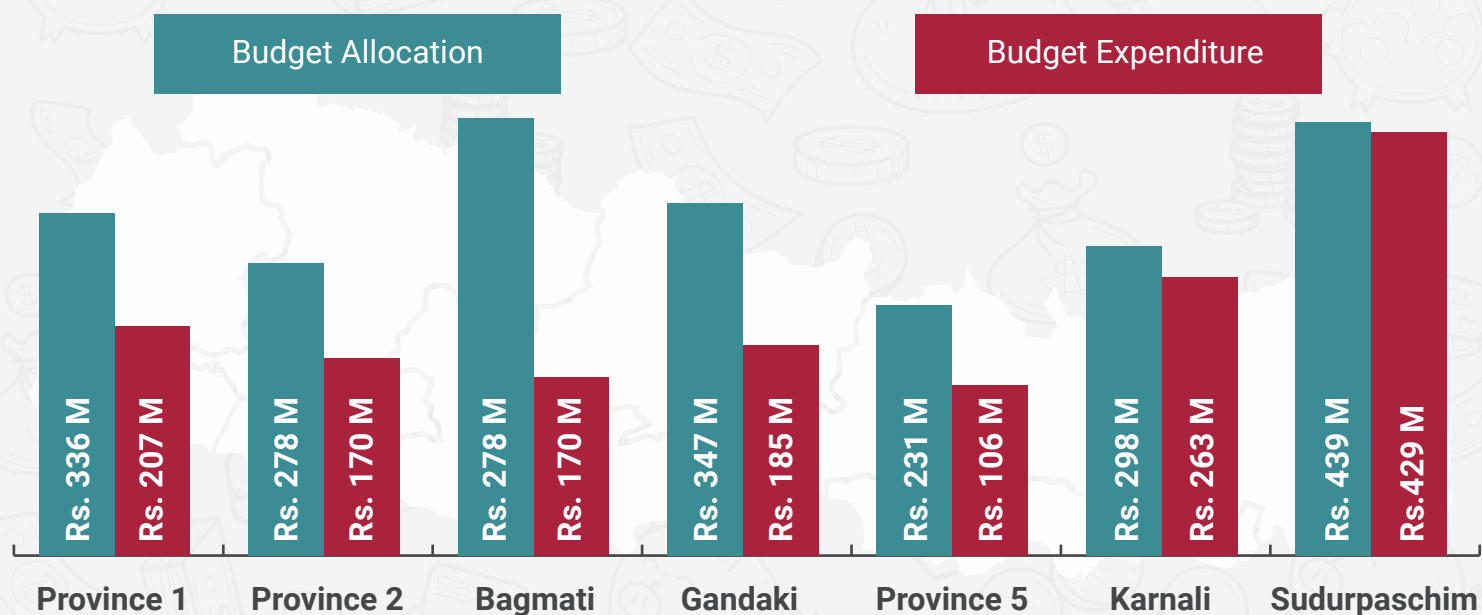


Other Expenses
Rs. 12,473,000



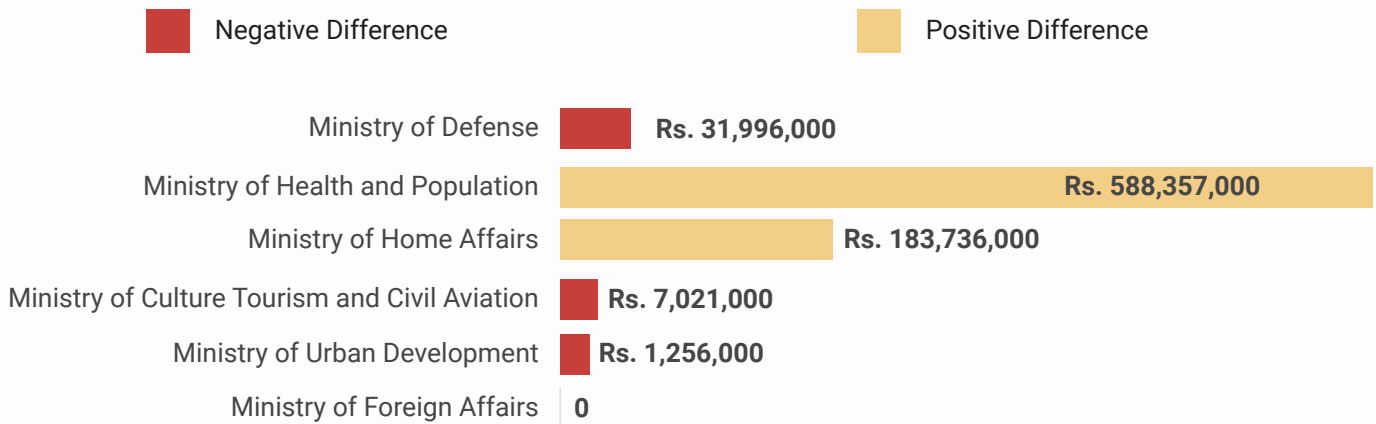
Human Resource Mobilization
Rs. 57,443,000

Expense made by Provincial Government



\$ Follow the Money

Expense Difference among different Ministries in Jhetha 2077 and Shrawan 2077



Per day expenses from Ashar to Shrawan (2 months) of 2077 by different levels of government



The government had published their corona expenses last on Jhetha 2077 and now on Shrawan 2077. Comparing the expenses of ministries published by the government and calculating the difference in expenses shows that the data on expenses made by the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation, and Ministry of Urban Development is inconsistent. These ministries have negative differences which should not be possible and shows there are mistakes in government's calculations of expenses.

Also, the per day expenses of the government within these 2 months (Jhetha to Shrawan 2077) shows that Federal Government's per day expenses on COVID-19 was more than 11 million NRS, the Provincial Government's spending was at 3.27 million NRS and Local Governments collectively spent more than 50.71 million NRS per day. These figures are way higher than the average expenses incurred by the Government of Nepal in the first 10 months of the fiscal year 2076/77. This point shows that the government has spent a huge amount of funds in a very short time raising questions of financial accountability and efficiency of the expenses.

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.



Who would rescue the Nepalis stranded abroad?

My name is Ritesh Ramjali Magar. My family is temporarily residing in the Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City ward no 22. I had been working at a security company named 'The Secure' in UAE

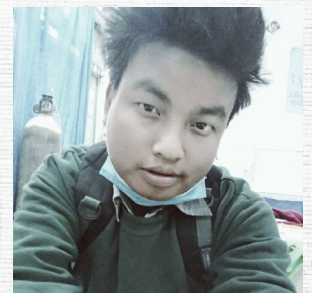
My visa period was until 31 March 2020. After that, I had planned to return Government banned the international flights seven days before my visa expired due to the corona pandemic. My days would pass by anticipating when the

international flights would be resumed. After a few months, I felt happy listening that the Nepal government is bringing back the migrants. But, almost five months had passed waiting for the tickets of the flight. All the savings accumulated earlier had been spent during this period. I still feel heavy at heart when I remember those days passed in pain.

After a long wait, I did receive a ticket, but the price of the ticket almost made me feel that my dream of returning home won't be fulfilled. I thought I would die abroad. When I went to get a ticket, it was almost 4 times more expensive than normal times. Earlier, tickets would easily be available for Nrs. 18,000 but during the time, the cost of a one-way ticket alone was 2,200 dirhams (Nrs. 66,000). I told everything at home. The family asked me to return despite the difficulties. Then, I bought a ticket with the help of a friend and the money left with me.

The government had promised to stop black-marketing during the pandemic. But why hasn't the government been able to stop black-marketing in international flights? Millions were spent on health items and other requirements such as quarantine and relief. But it is very disappointing to see that not a single rupee has been spent for us. It seems we are not the citizens of this country. We have done nothing for the development of the country. There are still friends abroad who have weaker economic conditions than me and have lost their jobs. I don't know if they can return to Nepal or not. The government said it would rescue Nepali citizens from abroad, but many Nepali brothers and sisters have been stranded abroad due to the lack of proper arrangements. Who will rescue them?

Ramesh Ramjali Magar
Nepalgunj, Banke



Work from Home: Long Term Impact on Work Sector



In his book, “Military Adaptation in War: With Fear of Change”, Williamson Murray provided an in-depth analysis of how soldiers deal with difficult situations in war and turn their fear into courage. Well, that is not the current issue. But, as stated in the book, the situation can bring about a lasting change in people’s behaviour and lifestyle is relevant today.

The whole world has come to a standstill at present. People are looking for alternatives as to how they can regulate their personal and business chores. Depending on the nature of the work, many have started working online from home. But the question is, how long will it last and how effective will it be? According to a survey, about 40% of those who now work from home will continue to work from home even after the end of COVID-19.

Keeping this in view, COVID-19 is seen to have made a lasting impact on people’s life and working style. The challenges and benefits of it has also become a topic of debate discussion now. According to a survey conducted by the World Economic Forum, working from home can lead to the following types of gradual challenges.

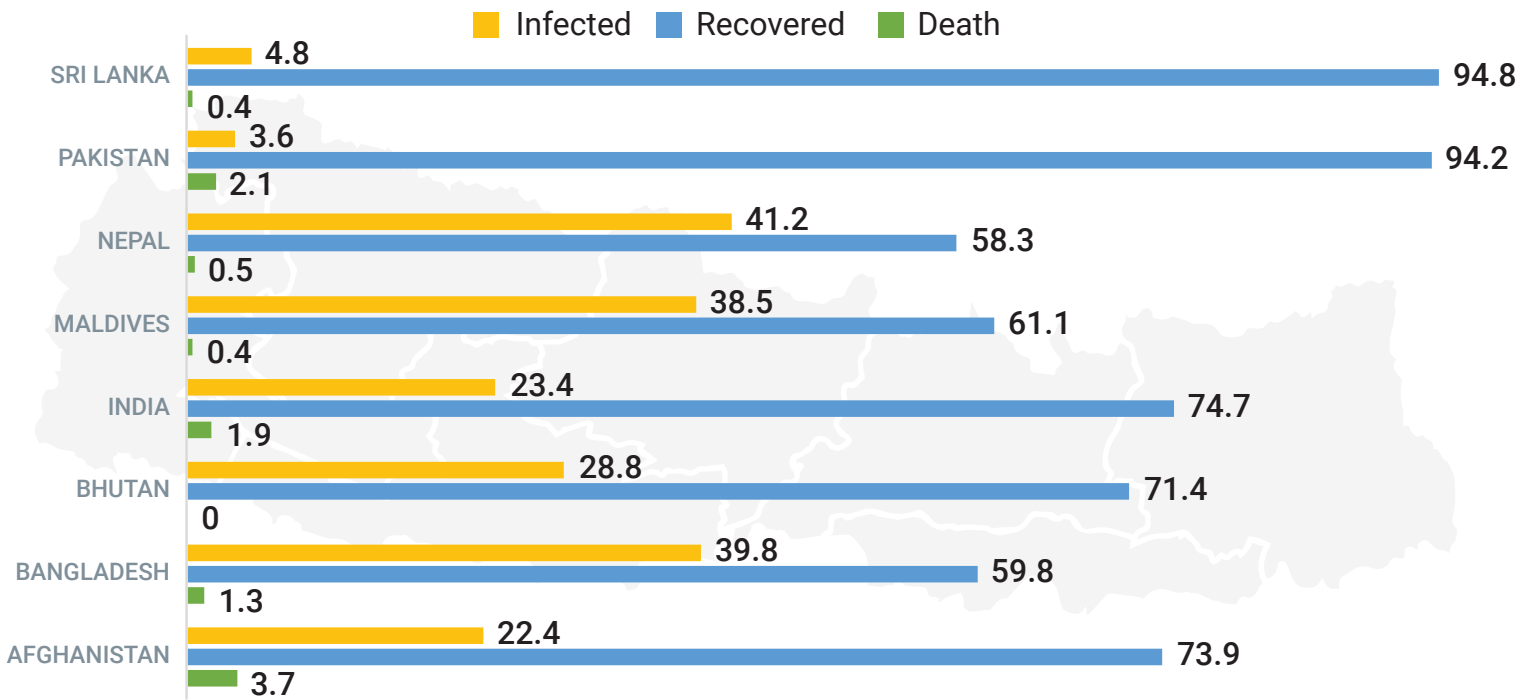
1. Disruption in work regularity
2. Feeling isolated to work
3. Coordination, collaboration and communication
4. Frequent distractions
5. Lack of the same level of passion and energy
6. Take the time as holidays
7. Poor internet connection



Along with the challenges, there are also benefits of working from home. For example; being able to work in the schedule that suits you, being able to work from anywhere, saving time from reaching home to office and office to home and being able to do office work while assisting the family etc. As the COVID-19 has developed a culture of working from home, the facts above emphasize the need to change the structural strategy of the office even after things get to a new normal.

Situation of Nepal compared to other SAARC countries regarding COVID-19 cases

Status of COVID-19 Cases in SAARC Countries in ratio to positive cases

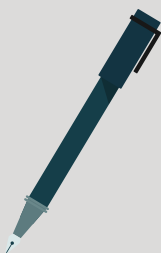


The above graph shows the ratio of deaths, recovered and active cases of COVID-19 in different SAARC nations. Nepal tops the chart on the ratio of active cases among positive cases. Currently, 41.2 percent of the total cases of COVID-19 are active cases in Nepal. This has a couple of implications: 1) Nepal has seen a rapid surge in COVID-19 cases with confirmed evidence of community transmission in many areas, many of these cases are new. This is the indication that Nepal has reached the stage of rapid growth of the virus. 2) Health delivery system of Nepal is at a record high stretch now compared to the last five months of COVID-19 pandemic in the country. Whichever the case may be, Nepal is likely to see a rapid surge for quite some time now. If this happens, more troubling days are ahead with exhausted health facilities, further deepening community transmission and failure to cope up with the virus.

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.



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