

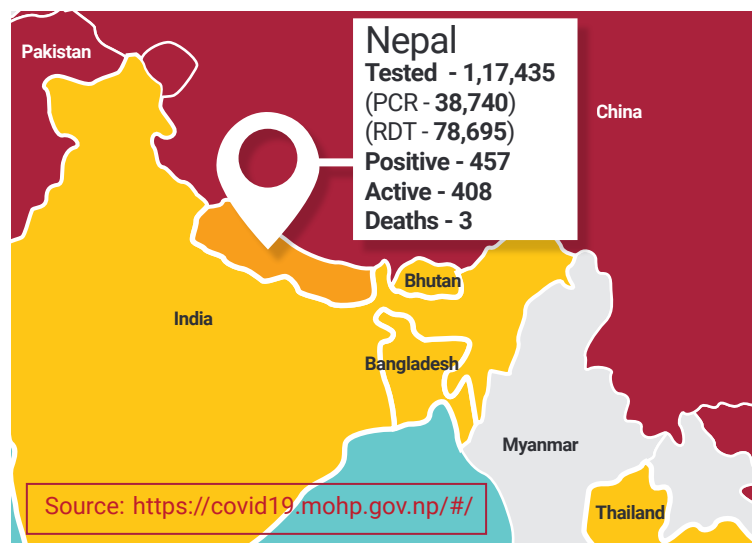
Situations like the coronavirus pandemic quickly lead to misinformation, rumors and fake news, as we saw after the earthquakes in Nepal. We can all play a role in beating the virus by making sure that we are sharing validated information and using trusted sources to inform our decision-making.

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.



People being placed in the quarantine area of Parsa district.

Photo: Kranti Shah



The minimum standards to be followed to operate a quarantine

- There should be one doctor, one nurse and one para medic (on site/on call) along with health care equipment for every hundred individuals
- Arrangement of food as per the requirement for children, senior citizens, pregnant women and patients of chronic diseases
- Room with an attached bathroom. If not, a shared toilet and bathroom for every six individuals given that three individuals share a room in average
- Bed with proper blankets and if required bedding along with a mosquito net
- Psychological counseling service
- Arrangement of healthy food and pure drinking water
- Arrangement of water and soap to take a bath and wash clothes
- Basic services including electricity and telephone
- Regular cleanliness

The number of individuals fleeing the quarantine is increasing on a daily basis. There are complaints that the facilities on quarantine don't meet the standard criteria. The government has allocated a large budget for the quarantine management and monitoring. The concerned authorities should emphasize on its implementation.

स्रोत: https://drive.google.com/file/d/10_QiNdqn6LyDuwktgrJ983v9jtEaNszi/view

Rumors & Facts



It is said that the Department of Industry is providing recommendations for the movement on a random basis as per the reference of big industrialists. But, the laborers working on the industries don't even get the recommendation.

The recommendations of the umbrella bodies of the industry and commerce to the Department of Industry have been made in a manner that it doesn't exceed a quarter of the total number of business persons and employees working in the corporate offices of the industry establishments. Except for those industries designated to operate, other industries or business firms cannot be recommended. The recommendations for the daily travel of the laborers currently involved also cannot be made. The concerned industry establishments have to make arrangements for their food and accommodation as per the criteria prescribed by the government.

Source: <https://www.doind.gov.np/index.php/notice/315-2020-05-17-04-21-35>



A lot of media have complained that the health workers assigned to treat corona patients do not provide details about the patient.

The doctors should respectfully ensure the Right to Privacy and adhere to the medical ethics while treating a patient. The complete information and records of the patient should be kept accurate and safe. All information should be communicated only by the designated personnel. Therefore, the doctors aren't allowed to share the details with anyone except their family members.

Source: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GavLiOpTqgDYTxsr_vY8jFLLtKrj_gzZ/view



We have heard that there is a heavy decrease in the revenue collection due to COVID-19. So, when the government raises the taxes to balance this, there will be a huge increase in prices.

The Center Bureau of Statistics (CBS), after studying the estimates so far, has predicted that the base price will increase by 2.27 percent in the coming fiscal year.

Source: <https://cbs.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CBS-GDP-Press-Release-2077-1-17-new.pdf>



Is there no time limit for the contact tracing of the individuals who have come in contact with the corona patients?

The investigation team formed by the Ministry of Health and Population should identify and follow up with all the contacts and fill the received information in the prescribed form within seven days. Their information details should be collected by personally meeting them or through phone interviews. Following that, the contacts should be kept on quarantine.

Source: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Sv2UHmYej_9sDp_yzBIOfXpPLPcE22C8/view

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

[World Health Organization](#)

[Ministry of Health and Population](#)

[Do's and don'ts](#)

[Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#)

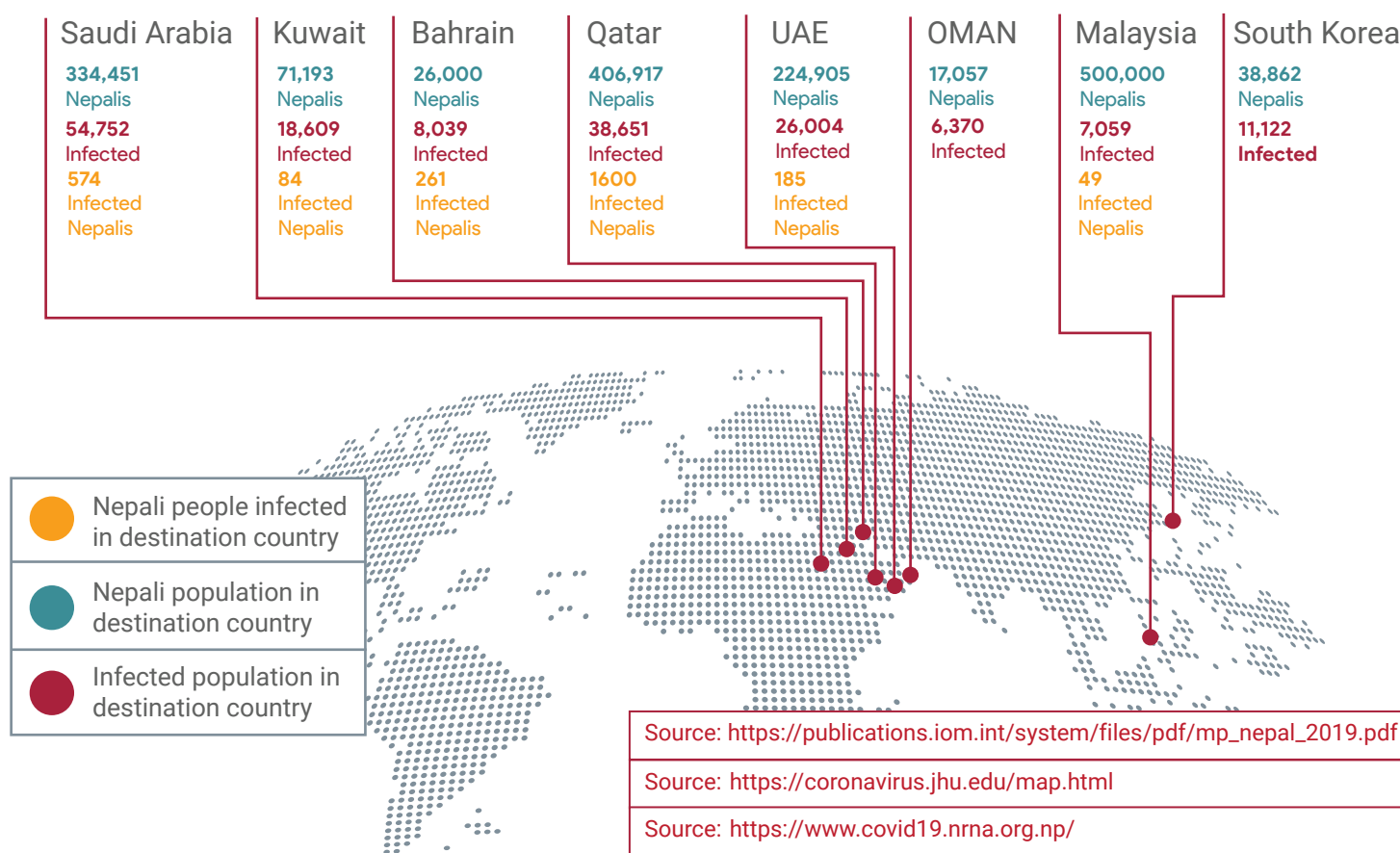
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal](#)

[Nepal Labour Force Survey Report](#)

[COVID-19 Situation](#)



Migrant workers in major destination countries



ShramikSanjal

Rules for offences and fine in UAE and Qatar

UAE

The sterilization program in Dubai has been rescheduled to 8 PM to 6 AM from 10 PM to 6 AM, to be effective from 20 May.

The details of the penalties for offences announced in the UAE at present are as follows:

Walking around without wearing a face marks - 1000 Dirham

Organizing a party, banquet or gathering - 10,000 Dirham

Attending a party, banquet or gathering - 5,000 Dirham

Traveling without a permit during the restricted time (8 PM to 6 AM) - 3000 Dirham

Not maintaining at least 2 meter distance in the public places including restaurant and shopping malls - 3 Dirham

Avoiding face masks in the office - 500 Dirham

For companies, if found not wearing a face masks - 5000 Dirham

For those who deny to install the COVID -19 tracing app or damage the installed app will also be charged with a huge penalty.

Qatar

- When stepping out of the house for any reason, the residents of Qatar should use Ehteraz App on their mobile phones. This decision will be effective from 22 May 2020.

- Only 2 people in a taxi and 3 people in private vehicles will be allowed to travel. This decision has been effective from 19 May 2020.

If someone is found violating the rules imposed by the Qatar government, the individual will be punished with 3 years in prison and a fine of upto 2 Lakh or one of the two.

\$ Follow the Money



Total

Spent

Federal Government

Donors

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

The total expenditure of Nepal government's activities against Coronavirus

Around 1.5B NRS

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

Around 2.34B NRS

ADB

60M USD

World Bank

28.7M USD

IMF

130.9M USD

European Union

82M USD

Province 2

Total Budget Release for Covid-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Fund



Hospital, medicine and equipment

Rs. 817,943,780



District/ Province crisis management fund

Rs. 60,000,000



Security (including the security of prisoners)

Rs. 44,500,000



Ministry (activities related to corona prevention)

Rs. 49,131,000



Relief distribution through 136 local government units

Rs. 337,000,000



Province fund

Rs. 250,328,010



Drinking water and sanitation

Rs. 10,000,000



Support to deceased journalist

Rs. 5,000,000



Relief in agricultural loan

Rs. 360,000,000



Total Budget Released

Rs. 1,933,902,790

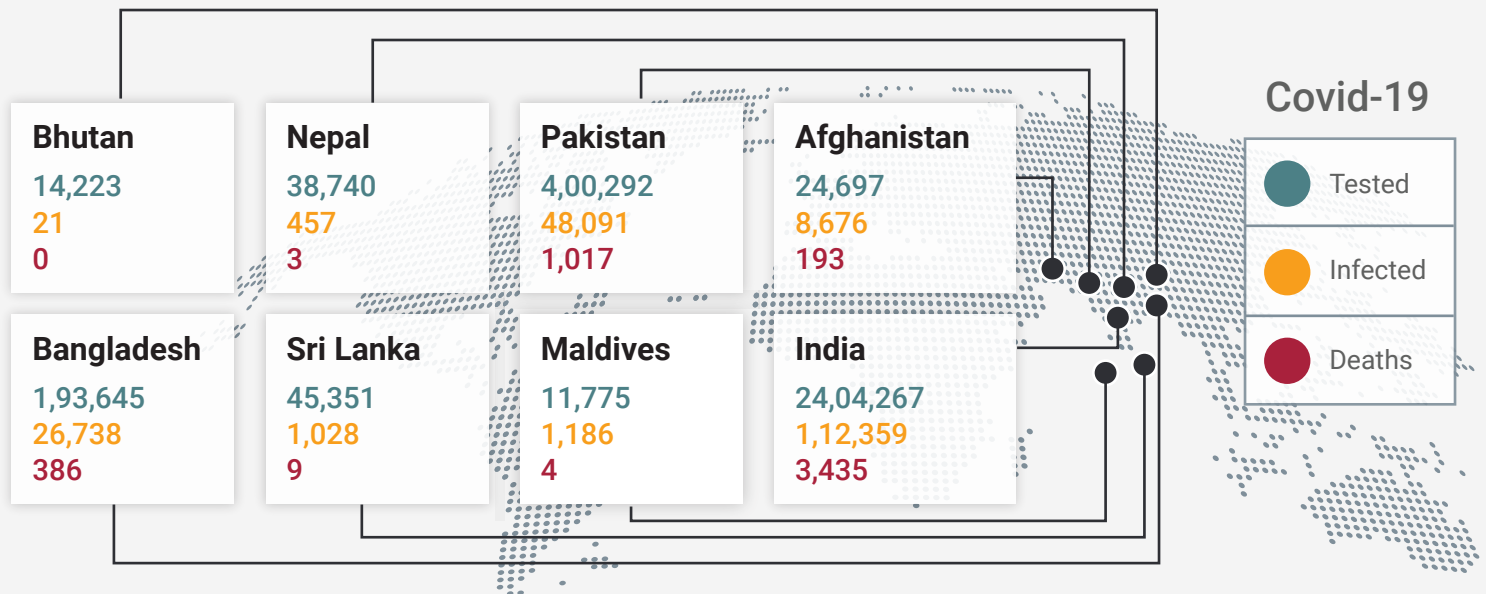
Source: <https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=http://www.moeap.p2.gov.np/sites/moeap/files/2020-04/COVID+बजेट.docx>

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.

COVID- 19, South Asia and Its Effects

- Basanta Adhikari
Social Activist
Biratnagar

Although SAARC countries cover only **3.5%** area of the world, it covers **40%** of the total area of Asia and constitutes **24%** of the world population.



Literacy Rate



Bhutan	Nepal	Pakistan	Afghanistan
60%	67.9%	55.3%	32%
Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Maldives	India
72.89%	91.7%	98.61%	69.1%

The lower literacy rate in these areas have affected the awareness level of the people living there.



In Afghanistan, **42%** of the population are living below the poverty line whereas the figures of the other countries are **24%** in Pakistan and Nepal, **21%** in Bangladesh and **17%** in India.

A large proportion of the citizens in this area constituting **81%** in India and Afghanistan, **80%** in Bangladesh, **70%** in Pakistan, **61.2%** in Nepal and **60.8%** in Sri Lanka work in the informal sectors.



The number of the citizens who send remittance to these countries are Pakistani 80 Lakh, Bangladeshi 1 Crore, Indian 3 Crore and Afghani and Nepalis 40 Lakh.

The remittance contributes to the **28%** in the GDP of Nepal and **16%** in the GDP of Afghanistan. Also, the billions of dollar received in form of remittance - 78 billion India, 22 billion Pakistan, 16.4 billion Bangladesh and nearly 8 billion Nepal sustains the economy of these countries



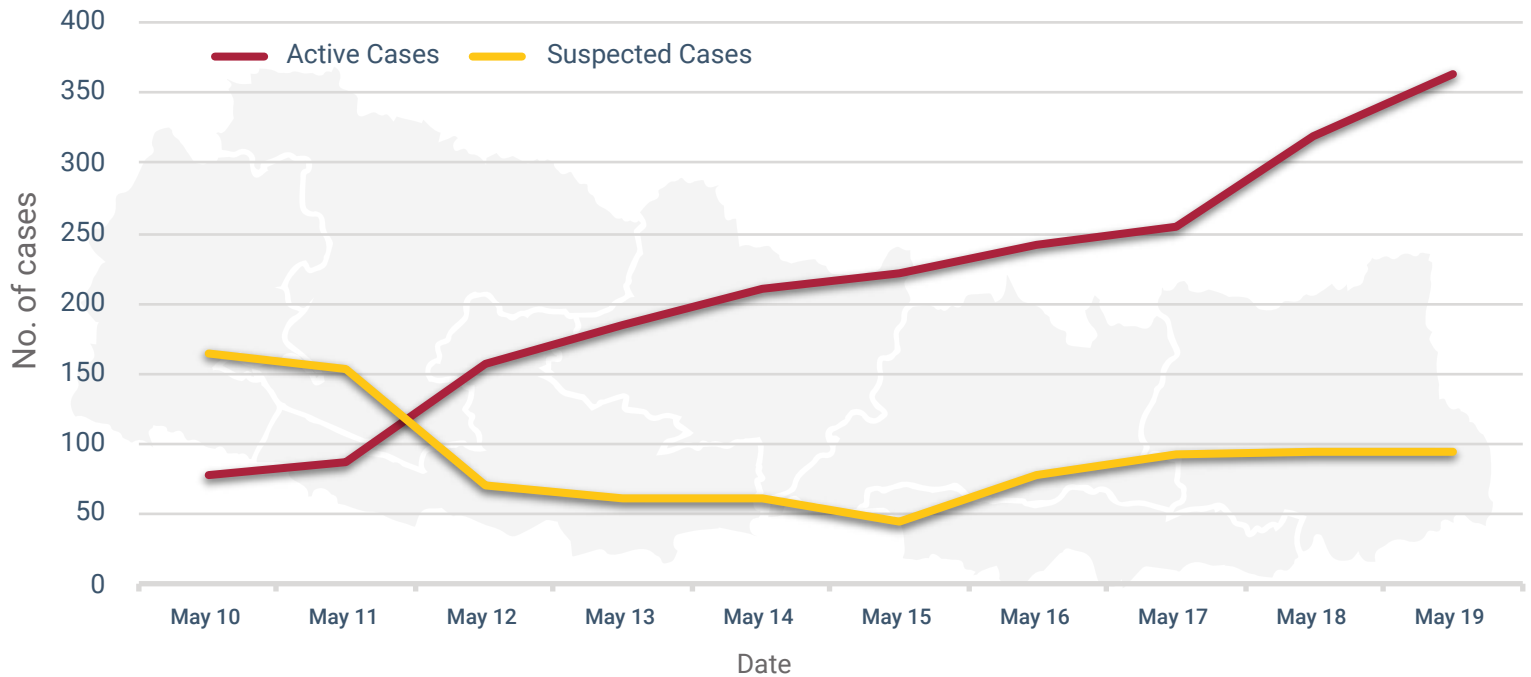
Economic Freedom

63	India
89	Bhutan
94	Nepal
94	Pakistan
99	Sri Lanka
149	Maldives
168	Bangladesh
176	Afghanistan

Contact tracing is not going smoothly.

Are we just waiting for another explosion of COVID-19 cases?

Active COVID-19 cases and number of case suspects in Nepal



According to the 'Algorithm to suspect COVID-19 infection based on WHO surveillance case definition' adapted by the Ministry of Health and Population, anyone who has been a contact of confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to the onset of symptoms has to be considered as suspected cases of COVID-19 infection.

The above graph shows that, as the cases of COVID-19 infection have tripled in the last 10 days suspected cases seem to be static. This shows that there has been little or no attention to contact tracing of the suspected cases. Releasing the data regarding the number of suspected cases have also been stopped from May 20, raising the concern on whether the government is just failing to trace the suspects, or are they just not concerned about recording their data?

Source: HEOC, MoHP, SitRep

The sources of rumors, information and issues presented here are collected from a variety of organizations and individuals including the Ministry of Health and Population, the World Health Organization (WHO), social media and the CivActs team based on their conversations with over 2000 people in April 2020. The issues highlighted are chosen based on prevalence, relevance and potential impact. The information presented here is correct at the time of issue.

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

