

# Nepal Coronavirus CivActs Campaign

Issue #33 08.06.2020

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.

New team formed to coordinate the treatment and management of patients with the increase in number of COVID-19 infected cases

#### Team structure

Quality and Regulation Division Head, Coordinator

CCMC, Representative member

Medical Council, Representative member

Private Hospital Umbrella Association, Representative member

## **Objectives**

Monitoring
Security management
Inspection

# The team will address the following questions

What kind of services are being offered from different types of hospitals?

What kind of services should have been offered?

Why aren't those services being offered?

What should be done to resume those services?

### **Nepal Update**







# **Rumors & Facts**



We have heard that the government is establishing a labor bank. What kind of bank is it?

Under the labor bank, the government will first document the qualifications, knowledge, skill, competence and experience of the labor force entering the labor market. Following that, the necessary details will be collected about the sectors that have employment opportunities. The government brought forward the concept of a labor bank with the objective of creating employment in the future through job matching to observe which sectors under the labor market have opportunities.

Source: https://moless.gov.np/?p=3372#post/0



It has been reported that the Sudurpaschim provincial government has instructed the subordinate health offices to not collect additional swabs for COVID-19 test. Is it true?

The only hospital in Sudurpaschim province, Seti Provincial Hospital does not have capacity to accommodate more than 1,100 swabs. As of now, the laboratory of the hospital is conducting 250 PCR tests everyday. The hospital is not in a position to accommodate additional swabs in the lab. Currently, it takes at least four days to test the collected swabs. So, the collection of swabs has been halted due to the lack of d-freeze to store it.

Source: Dr. Gunaraj Awasthi, Director, Sudurpaschim Health 094 440120/440278



The private hospitals are also conducting the COVID - 19 testing now Will I be able to get myself tested?

According to the guideline prepared for the testing of COVID-19, the first priority will be for the individuals who returned from abroad, who belong to the areas with high transmission and those who have come in contact with the infectants. The ones on second priority will be those health professionals who have come in direct contact with the infected individuals, those who need emergency health service and the suspected infectant. Similarly, the third priority will be given to those who belong to the areas of rapid outbreak and those who show the symptoms but don't belong to any group mentioned above. The ones who do not show

Source: https://drive.google.com/file/d/16qC8AD3q-0E-pQtRr2Hca8S3Evg6GgrM/view



Is it true that the government won't accept small donations from the donors now?

The support equipment to be provided to the Ministry of Health and Population should at least be worth of Rs. 5 Lakh. Similarly, the agency providing the support should provide the overall accessories necessary for the purpose at once. For example, a complete PPE set consisting of mask, cap, apron, gloves, boot, cover and goggles.

Source: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1j4HXkyuKmzl8Uaj8u5Y-Y0GvsZu1vlx3/view



Toll-free **HOTLINE** on C**WVID-19** 

DIAL 32100 for accessing all COVID-19

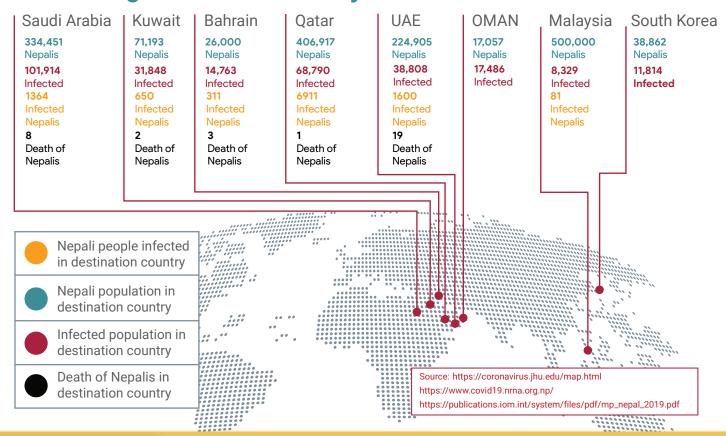
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# **Open Migration**

#### Migrant workers in major destination countries



## Shramik Sanjal

#### Completion of 1 month 5 days of the laborers's "Ghar Jana Pau" campaign

- A total of 168 Nepalis have returned home through the flight from Sharjah, UAE to Kathmandu. Also, 26 Nepalis have returned home from Myanmar.
- Although the first flight has completed, the schedule on when, where and how the
  other flights will be made hasn't been released. As per the guidelines made by the
  government, the individuals not infected with COVID-19 have to show medical
  reports, but the PCR testing in some countries are expensive and also, the laborers
  are not aware about where and how they can get tested. There is a dilemma
  among laborers on this issue. Thus, a concrete decision should be made by the
  government on this matter.
- Since no airlines have received permission to travel inside or outside Nepal, the Nepal Civil Aviation Authority has requested not to get confused and not book or buy tickets as it has been heard from various media that some airlines have started booking tickets for the Nepalis returning home from abroad.

# **\$ 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

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

The total expenditure of Nepal government's activities against Coronavirus

**Around 1.8B NRS** 

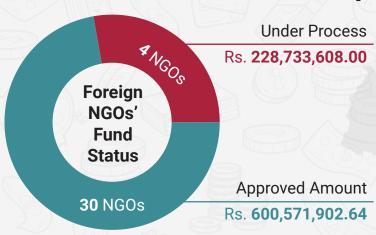
The Ministry of Defence for the purchase of health equipment to prevent and control COVID-19 released

**Around 2.34B NRS** 

### **Provincial Government**

| Province<br>Names | Province<br>1      | Province<br>2      | Bagmati<br>Province | Gandaki<br>Province | Province<br>5      | Karnali<br>Province | Sudurpaschim<br>Province  |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Total<br>Amount   | Around 293M NRS    | Around 610M NRS    | Around 400M NRS     | Around<br>150M NRS  | Around<br>236M NRS | Around 500M NRS     | Around<br><b>402M NRS</b> |
| Spent<br>Amount   | Around<br>178M NRS | Around<br>177M NRS | Around 123M NRS     | Around 92M NRS      | Around<br>136M NRS | Around<br>132M NRS  | Around<br>201M NRS        |

# Foreign NGOs support towards COVID-19 response and relief



TOTAL RELIEF AND RESPONSE FUND

Rs. 829,305,510.64

COVERING 72
DISTRICTS

30 Foreign NGOs have got approval to divert 20% of their total fund from existing projects to covid 19 relief and response. More than 600 million NRS have been diverted while another 22 million is awaiting approval from the government. The fund will be used to support the government's effort in procuring health kits, and providing food and other relief support. All of these funds will be spent in coordination with local governments. Therefore, it is very important to identify which local level units will be benefitted by these funds and track their spending.

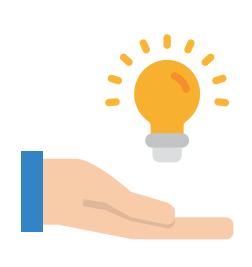
Note: This information is not complete. It has been brought together from different sources available.

We will keep collecting the data and revise it in the days ahead.



#### What we have learnt from the Pandemic

Pandemic in itself isn't positive. The existing coronavirus pandemic has hard-hitted the entire world economy. It has affected the daily life of individuals. In case of Nepalis economy, the tourism sector seems to be most affected. According to the projection of the annual budget of the Finance Ministry, the growth rate will deplete by 16.3% in this sector. However, the learnings of the coronavirus pandemic cannot be neglected. If these learnings are taken seriously, it will not not be difficult to take development at a speed.



#### Important learnings

- 1. Health is the most important aspect. Government should prioritize health before other development activities.
  - The foreign employment was given a huge emphasis with a notion that labor capital does not have boundaries. But the situation now is such that the labor and capital both will be localized. It is important to be self-reliant.
- 3. The local government is highly important during crisis.
  - 4. The infrastructure in the service provider office should discourage crowds and be technologically equipped. The service recipient can get their work done even without coming to the office.
- 5. Lots of work can be achieved with minimum resources. The national treasury can be made strong by avoiding unnecessary expenses.
  - 6. Everyone should be accustomed to living an alternative way of life.

The points mentioned above is the summary of the discussion held with Scholars of Integrity School on 25 Jestha 2077.





### No. of people arriving in quarantine from abroad



The above graph shows that the number of people arriving in quarantine from abroad has been steadily decreasing. It is indicative that a lesser number of migrant workers from neighboring countries are entering Nepal. Though the management of quarantine space is still challenging, the number now seems manageable compared to earlier figures. With this, the government now has to focus on improving safety of quarantine space and strong measures of containment. If the scale of testing is improved and community transmission is controlled, Nepal might soon have a way out of this pandemic.

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 May 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.







