

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.

Appeal with Nepal Government for special management of female returnee migrant workers



Open the registration for female foreign labour migrants at Foreign Employment Board.



The government should properly manage services such as accommodation facility meeting minimum standards, psychosocial counselling, health check-up determining the stay or respectful reintegration for the female returnee migrants from the government funds for COVID-19.



There should be proper planned management for the return of female migrant workers with due respect from Kuwait and other destinations.



There are some female migrants returning with sensitive reproductive issues. Their reproductive rights should be safeguarded.



The government should decide the upcoming actions by measuring the risks and conducting enough preparations to solve the problems by defining how to send the female migrants home and the responsibilities of local and provincial governments.

*Intergenerational Feminsit Group, Women-Friendly Crisis Management Group
and Women Humanitarian and Risk Reduction Forum*

Nepal Update



Photo Caption: The situation of quarantine in ward no. 8 of Yasodhara Rural Municipality in Kapilvastu district

Photo: Bhawani Prasad Pandey

Tested

PCR Tested: 1,55,518

Positive: 7,848

Active: 6,640

Deaths: 22

NEPAL



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

Rumors & Facts



What happens if an individual who comes in contact with the corona infected does not show symptoms? Will there be no further follow up with them?

The investigation team identifies the individual who came in contact with the corona infected and conducts an interview as per the proposed format. If the individual doesn't show any symptoms during the interview, the official person from the investigation team will advise him/her to stay at home isolation and follow-up regularly thereafter through phone or SMS. Further, if he/she does not show symptoms upto 22 days (the risk of active transmission of infection until 14 days and passive for 7 days), the follow-up process will end. For this, the investigation team has to inform the concerned individual about the end of the follow-up.

Source: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nC-h5htp8_TGZydKKpoNSc6WYmZomJ0N/view



Quarantines aren't safe for women. The incidents of rape of woman staying there are also being heard. Shouldn't the concerned bodies pay attention to this?

In this regard, the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens has requested the Ministry of Home Affairs to take actions on these issues through the ministerial decision on 1 Ashad 2077. According to the decision, separate quarantines should be managed for female and male, and arrangements should be made to keep female health volunteers and female police in the female quarantine.

Source: <https://mowcsc.gov.np/notice-news/>



Can't the locally available ambulances take corona patients to the hospitals?

At least one ambulance should be kept ready at the health posts, primary health centers, ayurveda institutions and health desks of the local level which would be used to take the individuals from infected areas and those at the risk of infection to quarantine or isolation in coordination with the focal health personnel from the district hospital. If it is not possible to manage different ambulances in the local level, the patients should be sent on the designated ambulance of the district in coordination with health offices. In gandaki province, such ambulances are partitioned and being run.

Source: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wmJMI7Zkx0ZhmGS4e4LstpfyIIYuYiu3/view>
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vUWyBAzbHUq011mrrnfT8zDKIJ-3Zw-H>



It is heard that there are no holding centers in the designated entry points from the Indian border, the ones that are established also aren't well-managed. Is it because of the lack of resources?

There are twenty checkpoints to enter Nepal via land from India. In view of the pressure of entry from India to the concerned local level for establishment and management of holding centers and it's maintenance, minimum Rs. 1 lakh to maximum Rs. 81 lakhs have been provided to the local level, and a total of Rs. 2 Crore 77 Lakh 23 Thousand has already been released.


Source: <https://mofaga.gov.np/uploads/notices/Notices-20200616173426651.pdf>

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



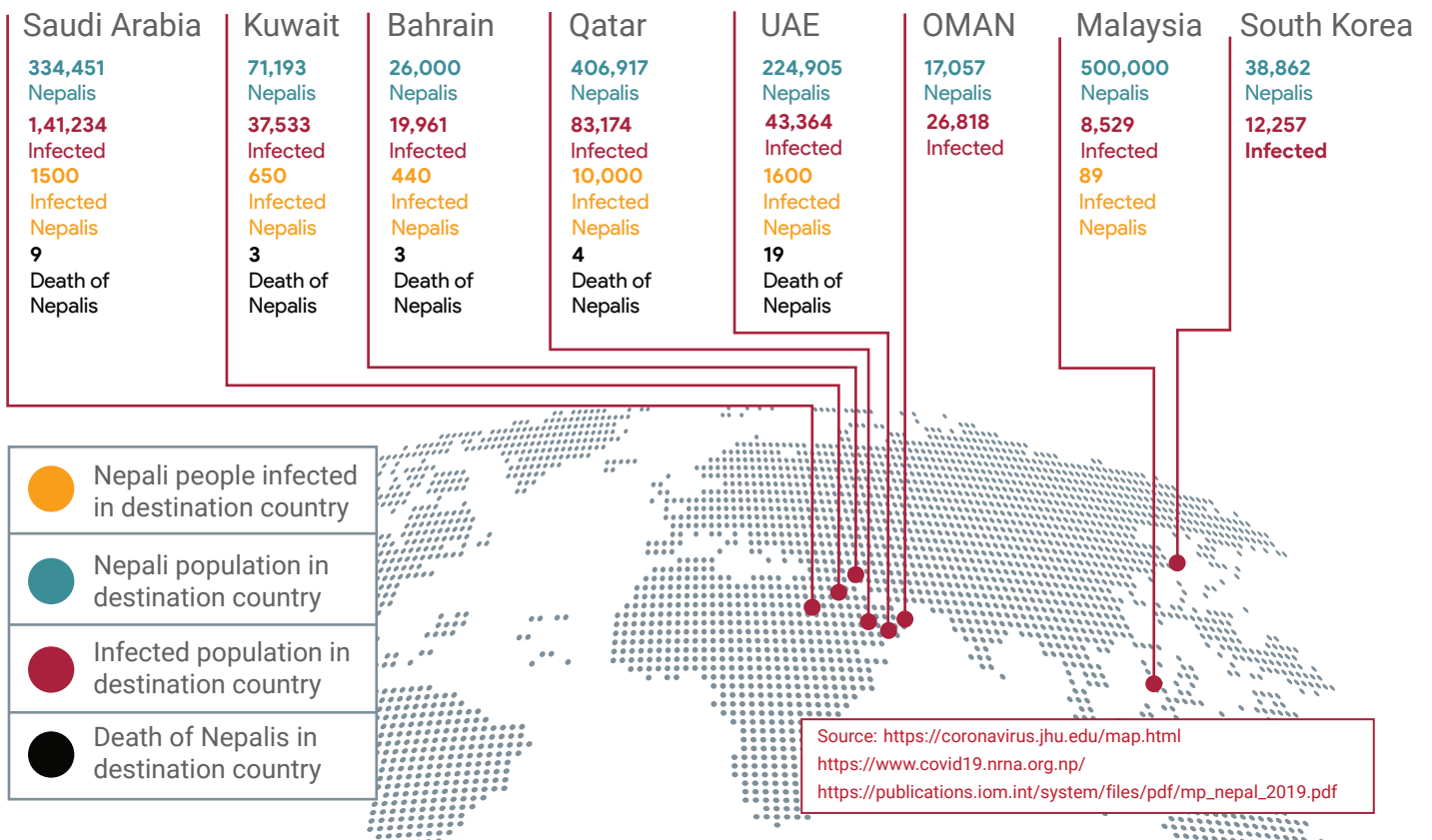
Toll-free **HOTLINE** on
COVID-19

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

Open Migration

Migrant workers in major destination countries

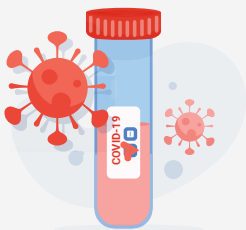


ShramikSanjal

The important information issued by Nepali Embassies abroad



The Nepal Embassies in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Qatar and the UAE have made the list of those individuals who want to return Nepal and fall under the priority criteria public. This list is also published in the concerned embassies website and facebook page.



According to the information provided by the Nepal Embassy in Saudi Arabia, the individuals are requested to do the COVID-19 test through the company and bring along the report with negative results. Similarly, for those who lack this facility are requested to get tested from the nearby testing center. And if this is also not possible, then the individual can contact Mr. Krishna Bhusal at mobile no. 0598256718.

The Supreme Court has issued an interim decision to the government to repatriate the Nepalis labourers who are stranded in foreign destinations. Moreover, unlike the earlier repatriation where laborers had to arrange the tickets on their own, the laborers who can't afford to return to Nepal will be rescued at the expense of the Nepal government. However, any specific criteria for this process hasn't been prepared.

\$ 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

ADB
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

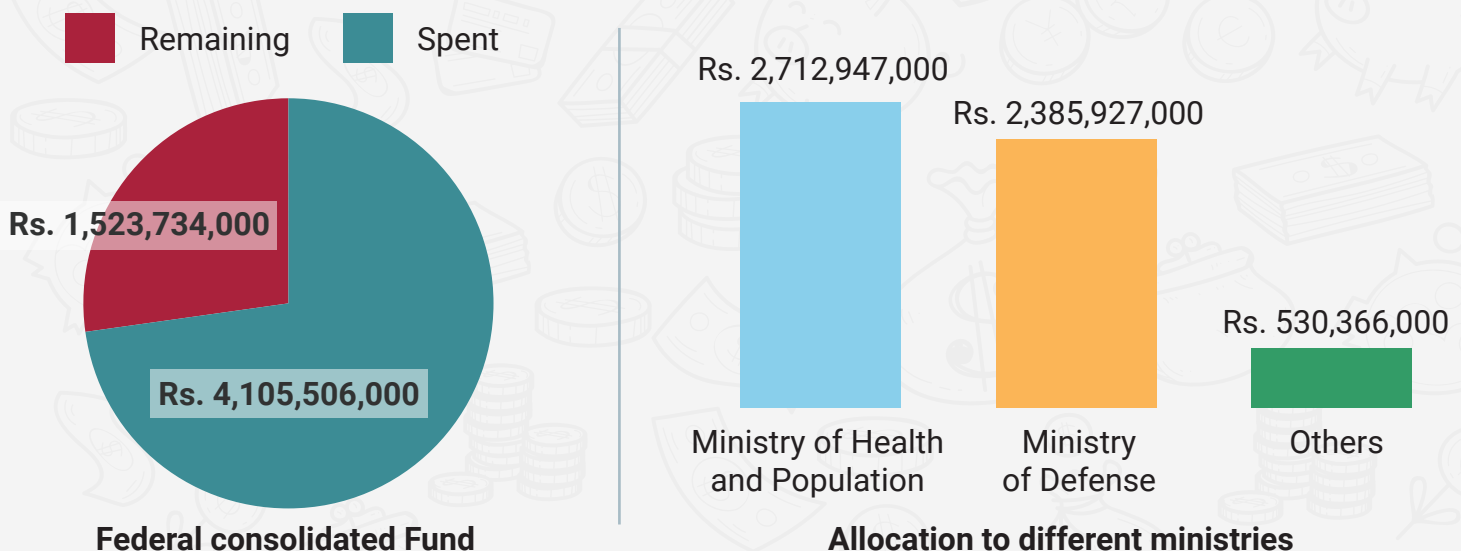
The Ministry of Defence for the purchase of health equipment to prevent and control COVID-19 released

Around 2.34B NRS

Provincial Government

Province 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

Federal Government's allocation and spending of the federal consolidated fund through different ministries

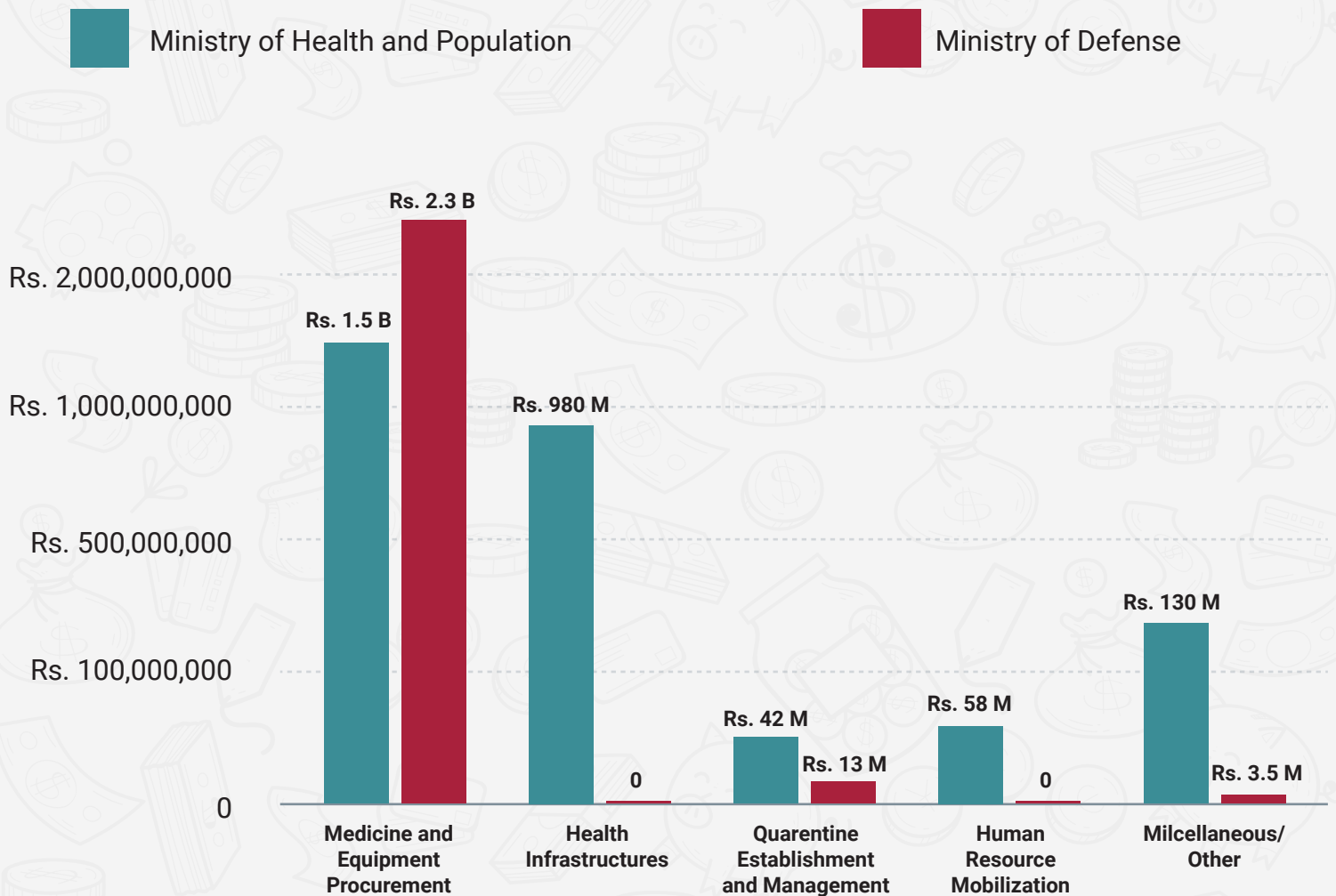


The federal government has spent 73% of its allocation of the federal consolidated fund through its ministries. As expected Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) received largest share of allocation (48%) followed by Ministry of Defence (MoD) (42%), while Ministry of Science, Education and Technology, Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Culture Tourism and Civil Affiliation, Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Foreign Affairs make up the remainin 10% of the allocation.

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.

\$ Follow the Money

Category-wise fund allocation details of MoHP and MoD



Between the two highest fund allocated ministries, the Ministry of Defence has a higher percentage of expenses (100%) than the Ministry of Health and Population (58%). Costs of medicine and equipment are the single largest expenditure items in terms of allocation followed by expenses on building health infrastructures. But, It is inappropriate for the Ministry of Health and Population to allocate 130 million of its total budget as Others. Such a huge expense demands more detailed information. Information like this is sure to raise eyebrows if details are not furnished.

Similarly, multiple agencies spending funds in the same heading like medicine and procurement, and quarantine management without details on specific numbers of units procured or built are unavailable. These information are so disparate that it does not provide ground for comparative analysis. Moreover, allocation made by MoHP category wise (figure above) does not match with the total expenses reported by the same ministry (figure in the previous page) and there is a difference of more than 45 lakhs which has not even been accounted for.

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.

The major challenges associated with open budget, fiscal justice, public finance and COVID- 19

A big sum of public money is being mobilized and spent with the government launching emergency spending measures to address the crisis stemming from the global pandemic of COVID-19. How effectively and efficiently governments mobilize public resources and where these resources are spent will indeed determine how many lives are saved, how many people fall into poverty and how the society and economy rebound.



Nepal's budget transparency score has dropped according to the latest internationally-recognized Open Budget Survey (OBS) report. Budget transparency score of the country has decreased to **41 in 2019** from **52 in 2017**. It provides a snapshot of Nepal's current practices on opportunities for public engagement in the budget cycle, and effective check and balance between the two.

In lack of adequate transparency and oversight of government spending during the crisis, it has higher chances to lead to unwise expenditure, increased irregularities and higher costs for public services. This will resultantly undermine the citizen-state engagement, trust and social contract.

Solution and opportunities

It is high time for the government to adopt the strategy of open response to the crisis with trusted mechanisms for transparency and accountability. Government can do following things for it:

1. Full transparency on budget allocation, public procurement and additional budget funds
2. Establish explicit connection between policies and budgets
3. Seek suggestions and feedback from government agencies and CSOs and engage them to monitor the implementation of decisions during emergency.
4. Strengthen the oversight functions of parliament and auditor general.
5. Sustainable improvements to make accountability more practical.



Krishna Sapkota

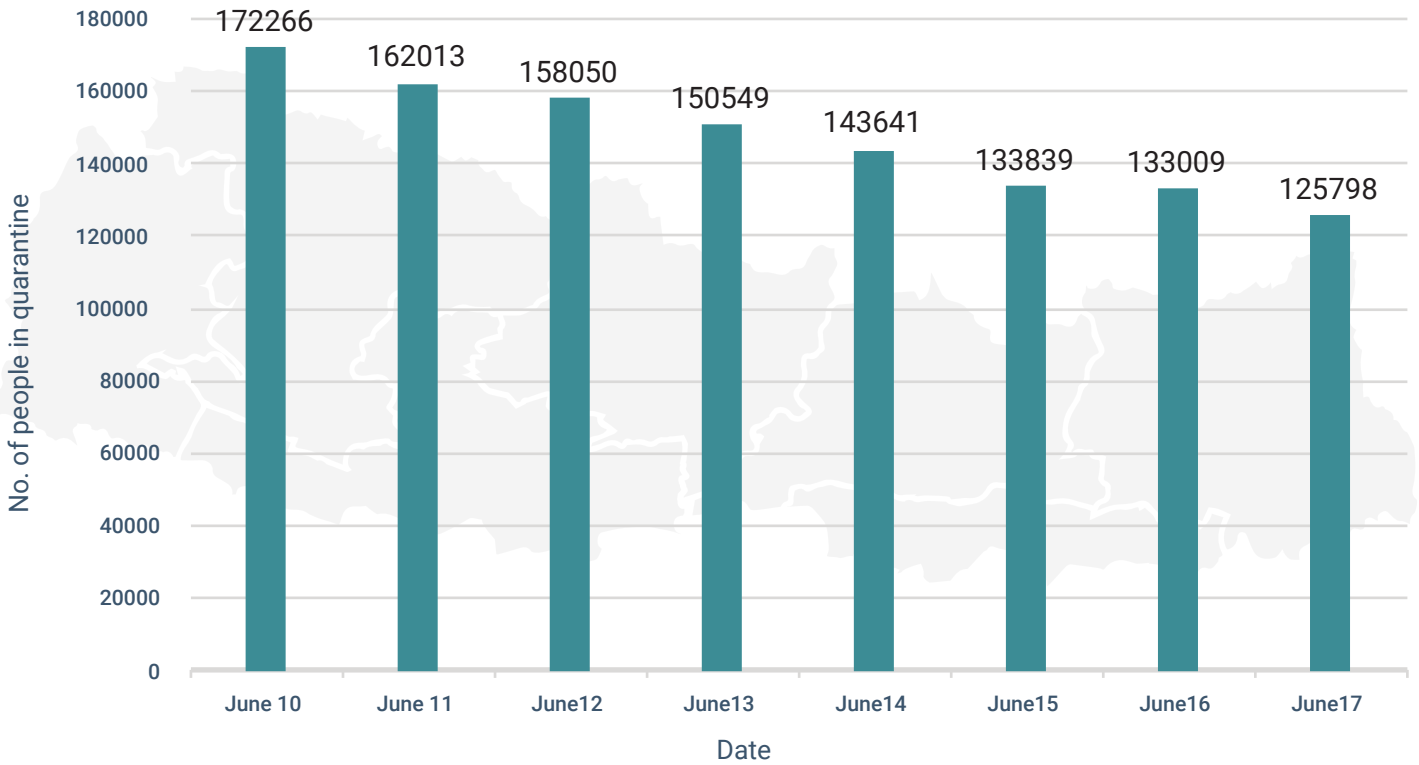
Freedom Forum

<http://freedomforum.org.np/nepal-drops-in-international-rankings-on-central-budget-transparency/>

<https://blog-pfm.imf.org/pfmblog/2020/04/-do-whatever-it-takes-but-keep-the-receiptsthe-public-financial-management-challenges-.html>

Failed preparation and lockdown. Is the worst yet to come for Nepal?

Total number of people in quarantine

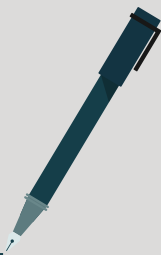


In just last week, almost fifty thousand people have moved out of quarantine into the community. The latest data on confirmed cases of COVID-19 states that cases have been spotted in communities including those who were in quarantine and non-migrant people. Nepal is failing on scale the PCR testing capacity. Only one new testing facility was introduced last week, and yet no significant improvement on the quantity of daily PCR tests can be seen. This shows that with five months to prepare, three months of lockdown and new cases being identified at record setting paces, Nepal is still ill prepared to fight 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.



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