

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.



Testing temperature in response to corona virus
Photo: Sunil Pradha/Analodu



Formation of a special team by the government to support and facilitate tracing and testing of COVID-19



Team Structure

- 1 Public Health Officer
- 1 Lab Technician/Assistant
- 1 Paramedic/Nurse

Team Mobilization



Each Metropolitan City
5 Teams



Each Sub-Metropolitan City
3 Teams



Each Municipality
2 Teams



Each Rural Municipality
1 Team

Rumors & Facts



Is it true that the government has decided to permit migrant workers for foreign employment?

The government has decided to permit the laborers who have passed the Korean language test and received an EPS (Employment Permission Certificate). This decision was made by the Council of Ministers after a discussion and agreement between two countries. This decision is not applicable to the migrant workers who have received a visa or a permit for a Gulf country.



WHO has announced that Nepal is not at risk of Coronavirus anymore.

WHO classifies the risk of transmission of Coronavirus at four levels in its Situation Report. Earlier, Nepal was included in a high-risk country within the category. But, now it has gone a step ahead being categorized as the country with risk. The level of risk is assessed based on the strategy of the country and the current situation. WHO has also announced that as COVID-19 is a pandemic all the countries are at a risk.



We have heard the university has started online classes. Do students have to appear for exams based on these classes?

The majority of the departments and colleges of Tribhuvan University have been conducting online classes through zoom, Google, SMS etc. The professors of the concerned classes have to keep a recording of the class and email it to the department. Those students who couldn't attend any classes will be provided with the recording afterward. The University has also issued a guideline that payment to the teacher and participation of students in the exams will be made based on the attendance.



It is certain that millions of youth will return from foreign employment. It will create a dire situation of unemployment. How does the government plan to tackle this challenge?

To address this challenge, the Ministry of Labor, Social Security, and Foreign Employment has started the homework to collect the data of unemployed, update it, and target the returnees from foreign employment and create a self-employment program in the new budget worth NRs. 10 Billion.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

[World Health Organization](#) [Ministry of Health and Population](#)

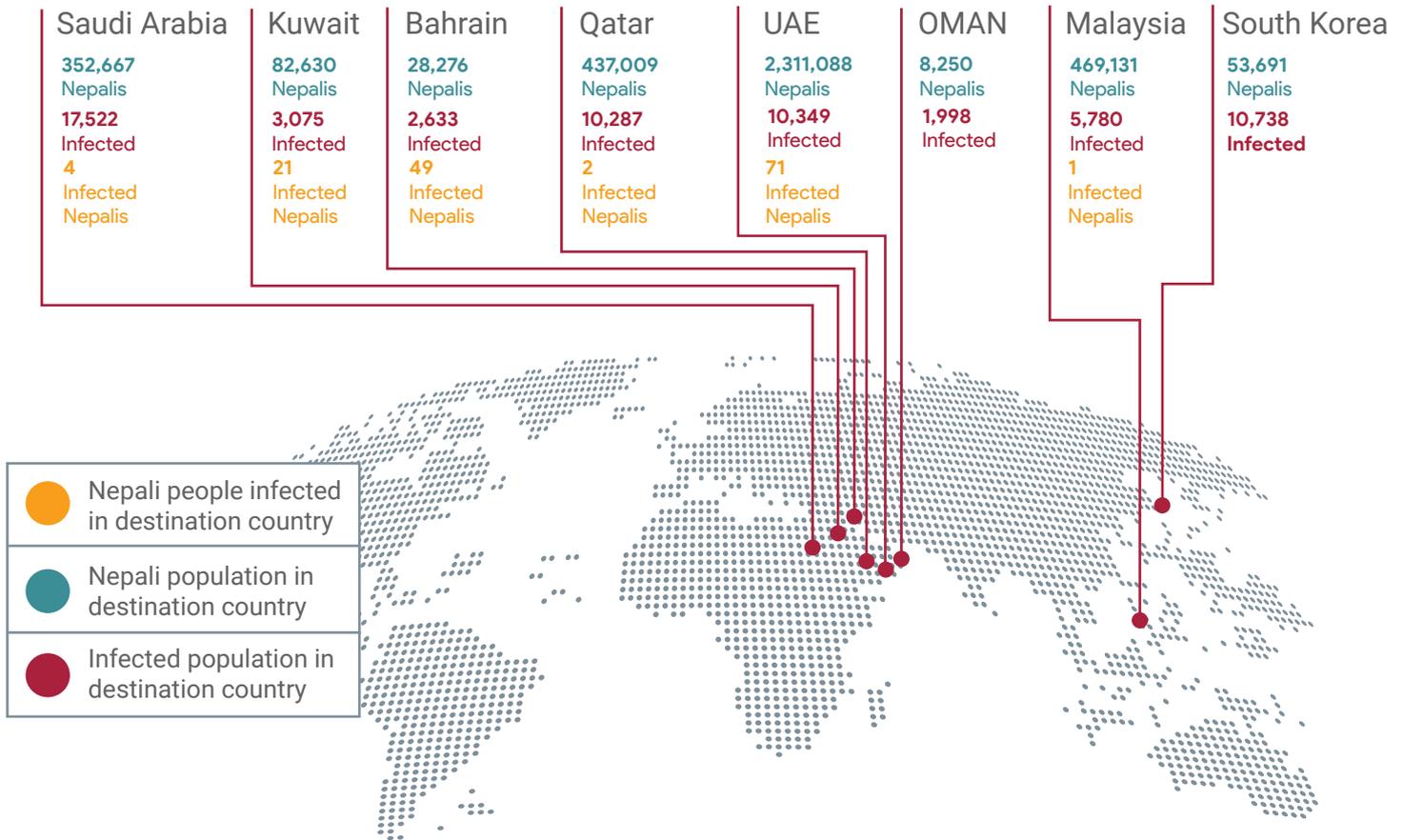
[Do's and don't's](#) [Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#)

[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

Two News from Gulf Countries

Kuwait: The Kuwait government has scheduled dates from 26 to 30 April to provide amnesty for Nepalis. The Nepal Embassy is providing travel documents to undocumented laborers. Thousands of labor migrants living without documents in Kuwait are being benefited by this service.

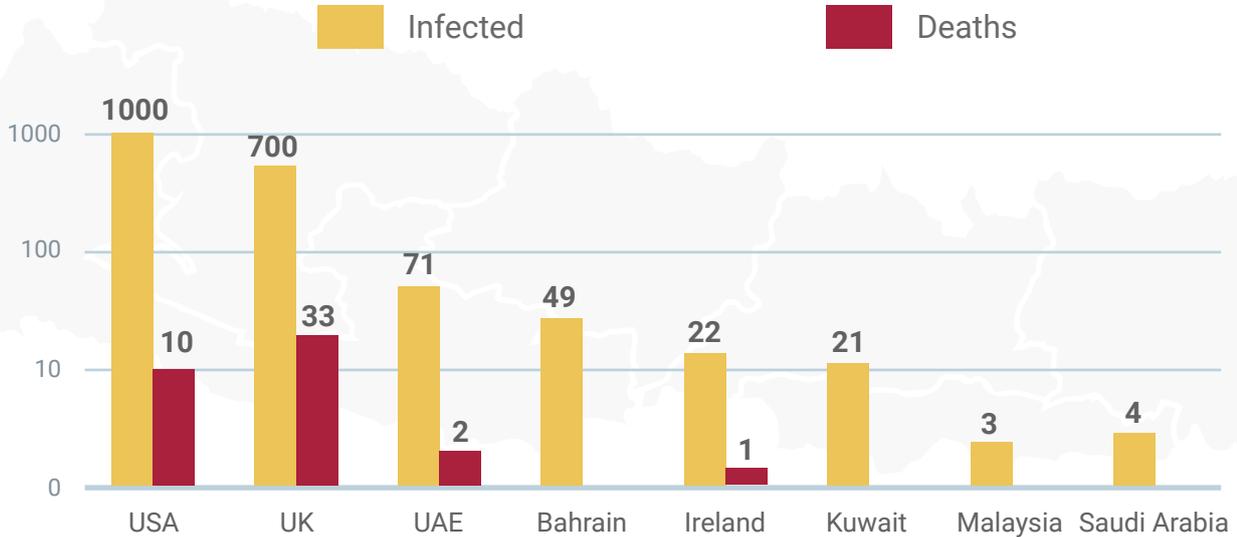
UAE: Dubai which had imposed a 24-hour lockdown earlier has now loosened the lockdown. In addition, the Dubai metro which was closed for some time is now under operation.

Advice to the government

Thousands of laborers have lost their employment abroad. Thousands of laborers are staying on unpaid leave. Thus, it is their natural right to return home under these circumstances. But, most of them are facing dire conditions as the nationwide lockdown and ban on international flights have prevented them from returning to their own country. It is the responsibility of the government to finalize a mechanism and allow the migrants to return to Nepal. The laborers are also hopeful that they will soon be rescued.

Migrant workers are dying in destination countries. Is the Nepali Government concerned at all?

COVID-19 Cases and deaths of Nepali in different countries



The number of infections and deaths of Nepalis abroad is alarming compared to the domestic cases in Nepal. Cases in countries like UAE, Kuwait, and Bahrain account for migrant workers who are currently stuck there. There is clearly a need for appropriate strategy and action from the government to safeguard these migrant workers in specific and all Nepalis living abroad in general through the diplomatic channels of Nepal.

FEARS AMONG NEPALI MIGRANT WORKERS



Coronavirus Infection



Forceful deportation



Loss of job and income



Family disconnection and trauma

\$ Follow the Money

Federal Government

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 2.1B NRS



Total

Spent

The total expenditure of Nepal government's activities against Coronavirus

Around 1.5B NRS

Province	Total Amount	Spent Amount	Remaining Amount
Province 1	Around 288M NRS	Around 120M NRS	Around 168M NRS
Province 2	610M NRS	177M NRS	433M NRS
Bagmati	???	123M NRS	???
Gandaki	Around 150M NRS	92M NRS	58M NRS
Province 5	236M NRS	126M NRS	100M NRS
Karnali	???	132M NRS	???
Sudurpaschim	Around 402M NRS	202M NRS	200M NRS

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.

A glimpse of positive impact of COVID- 19 on the Environment

Pandemic in itself is not good, but we cannot deny its positive impact



Improvement of air quality



It seems the world is at rest now. And Nepal is no exception to this. As human activities are completely on halt, it has made a positive impact on improving the quality of air.

Fall in Greenhouse gas emission

The reduction in greenhouse gas emission was earlier seen during the economic crisis in 2008 - 2009. The closure of the large scale industries across the world has led to the fall of greenhouse gas emission at present.



Pollution level declines in the mountains



As the lockdown has completely stopped the movements of internal and foreign tourists, it has reduced the pollution in the mountainous region. Due to the same reason, the temperature of the area has come to balance.

Reduction of Noise in National Parks

The noise and crowds around national parks have reduced since the government has restricted the movements in those areas.



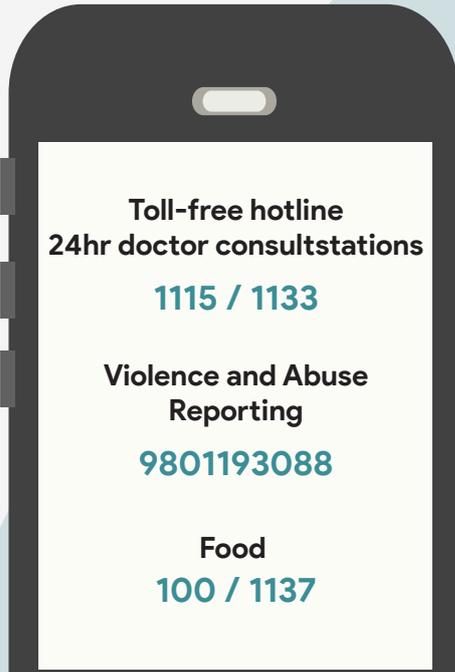
Reduction in the use of non-renewable resources



Only the vehicles that transport the essential daily items are in function during the lockdown. It is predicted that only around 5% of vehicles are in use. Thus, this has heavily reduced the use of non-renewable resources.

What if I contract **coronavirus**?

COVID-19 HOTLINE



Where can I get a coronavirus test?

The PCR tests for Coronavirus are conducted in 14 Labs across 7 provinces including the National Public Health Laboratory whereas R.D.T tests are conducted in all 7 districts across Nepal.

Is the sick person allowed to go to the lab to get tested? How much does it cost?

The sick person is not allowed to go to the lab directly. The local hospitals will refer to the NPHL to test if suspected. There is no cost for the test.

How long does it take to see the results of the test?

The PCR tests reports are given in between 6 to 48 hours, whereas the reports for RDT tests are given in 15 minutes.

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.

