



Disaster Preparedness Network Nepal

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An appeal to the local, national, and international non-governmental organizations, the general public, and the private sectors to support Government efforts in saving lives of people and health professionals in response to the Second Wave-Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV second wave) outbreak in Nepal

May 18, 2021

Globally, 2019-nCoV (COVID-19) was first detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019, which has paralyzed entire lives and slowed down the economy across the globe claiming the lives of 3,395,081 civilians globally. The second wave of Coronavirus erupted in India impacting millions and killing thousands each day. As a spill-over effect, the already vulnerable population in Nepal has become the brunt of it causing the fatalities of hundreds every day, health institutions are overwhelmed in absence of basic medical facilities, and the livelihood of the most vulnerable population is badly impacted. If the public could not be made aware on the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 backed up by the strengthened health system to respond to the disease outbreak; the public life and health system will be crippled down due to the pandemic. The situation will be compounded further by the third wave of pandemic and upcoming monsoon; the concerned experts have warned.

Despite several uncertainties that exist in Nepal and limited resources available in the country, the role played by the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health, public and private sector hospitals, and health workers, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, Nepal Army, CBOs/NGOs/INGOs, private sectors, volunteer groups to save the public life is commendable. However, due to changing form of **Virus** followed by the social and economic complexities of Nepali society; COVID-19 second wave may bring catastrophic results in public life as all health facilities across the country will be unable to function due to a number of factors such as lack of basic medical supplies and sufficient bed to hospitalize the infected patients, insufficient health professionals, insufficient coordination mechanism between and among the concerned actors, negligence among the public life, ineffective public awareness, and lack of information available to the community people and the migrant workers. As a result, the number of active cases and the death toll will go significantly high. If it could not be prevented or controlled on time, the cost of post COVID-19 situation would be very high, irreparable, and the impact will be much deeper and can bring long-term social and economic uncertainties in Nepalese society.

With its 25-years of history in Nepal, **Disaster Preparedness Network- Nepal (DPNet-Nepal)** is a national umbrella organization of national and international agencies, established in 1996. DPNet- Nepal was established with an objective to act as national hub for the coordination, collaboration, learning and sharing of the experiences and to avoid duplication in Disaster Risk Management practices including emergency response in the country. During the time of crisis and in normal situation, it acts as a resource center for its member organizations to coordinate and network building, knowledge management, capacity building and policy influencing work.

In the present COVID-19 crisis situation, DPNet as a responsible body in the sector, expresses its deep concern over the human suffering being caused by the COVID-19 Second Wave and would like to act more responsibly to support the Government of Nepal, its member organizations and community in their life-saving and for the relief and recovery efforts in coordination with the Government and its member organizations at all tiers. To achieve this, DPNet Nepal would like to propose the following key priorities as short, medium and long-term intervention:

1. Short-term (mainly the lifesaving effort):

- 1.1 **Conduct a rapid need assessment** in the health, post-COVID-19 trauma care, and relief
- 1.2 **Health Emergency Support:** Based on identified need in the health sector, DPNet will coordinate with the perspective donor agencies, government and its member organizations to address immediate health emergency need



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2. Medium Term:

- 2.1 **Relief support program:** Based on livelihood need identified among the most vulnerable population; *mostly the working class, seasonal migrant workers and their families*, support mechanism will be created based on resource availability to provide relief support to the identified beneficiaries
- 2.2 **Psycho-social support** to the family members those have lost their family members and the job

3. Long-term:

- 3.1 **Capacity Building** of Federal, Provincial and Local Government bodies and humanitarian organizations to localize disaster risk reduction and management practices
- 3.2 **Policy support** to the GoN and CSOs for the effective management of emergency response including to manage the pandemic like COVID-19

Considering the present crisis and need of the country, **DPNet** would like to act on the **priority-1** above focusing on lifesaving effort for which **DPNet requests** all the concerned individuals and agencies to come up with their humanitarian heart aiming at **to reduce the morbidity and mortality being induced by the COVID-19**. Please use the following account details to transfer your humanitarian support in cash.

Name of Bank: Nepal Bangladesh Bank

Account #: 001252221s

Account holder's name: DPNet Nepal

Branch: Kamaladi

Note: For the medium and long-term intervention, we can continue the conversation, please do let us know your interest.

We can be reached out via email as follows:

1. Mr. Surya Bahadru Thapa, Chairperson, DPNet Nepal (subatha3@gmail.com)
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Respectfully,

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Surya Bahadur Thapa
Chairperson, DPNet Nepal