

COVID-19

Preparedness and Response Operation

1 May 2021 - 21 May 2021

Update # 1

Issue date: 23 May 2021



NRCS handed over 90 Oxygen concentrators and 70000 masks, 2000 coveralls to The Ministry of Health and Population (Photo: NRCS)

CONTEXT

Highlights:

- As COVID-19 infections are surging at unprecedented rate, prohibitory orders has been imposed since 29 April in Kathmandu valley, extended until midnight of 27 May 2021. Public and private transports are restricted to ply however groceries; essential supply stores will open until 10 a.m.
- The district administration office (DAOs) in 74 of the 77 districts in country have enforced prohibitory orders to break the chain of coronavirus spread. According to Ministry of Home Affairs, 69 districts have enforced prohibitory orders in the entire district while 5 others have implemented the orders in the affected sites.
- Suspension period of all international flights has been extended until 31 May 2021 (except two flights per week from Delhi as per the air bubble agreement) and all. All domestic flights have been suspended until further notice.
- The government has decided to use all beds in government hospitals in the capital for treatment of coronavirus patients. Hospitals to be used for COVID-19 treatment includes Bir Hospital, Patan Hospital, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, National Trauma Centre and Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital. Also, private hospitals have been requested to allocate two thirds of their beds for coronavirus patients.
- The Ministry of Health and Population has released list of essential health commodities urgently required to response which includes oxygen, critical care medicines and supplies and temporary hospitals. The Social Welfare Council has requested all i/NGOs member to divert 5-20% of their resources to the COVID-19 response.
- 21,13,080 people have been vaccinated and 5,14,253 has received the 2nd dose (update as of 21 May 2021)

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), as an auxiliary to the Government within its capacities and mandates, has been working on COVID-19 preparedness and response operation since early February 2020 in coordination with The Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Participating National Societies (PNS), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and non -Movement partners as well as other stakeholders.

NRCS has continued its COVID-19 response in 2021, with the activation of Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) being led by Health service department in coordination with NRCS executive members, senior management team. The team will be responsible for generating resources through coordination at national and international level. For the same, NRCS has developed online fundraising site. Moreover, a revised COVID-19 response operational plan with major focus on lifesaving activities has been developed and activity COVID-19 activity implementation guideline has been shared to all 77 district. Similarly, development project were instructed to use certain budget for COVID-19 response, and in case of district without any program budget of 1,00,000 has been approved to be use by district for COVID-19 response. As of 22 May 2020, NRCS has reached more than 456902 people through its services. thereby mobilizing 956 volunteers at different units.

Situation Overview (as of 20 May 2021)

| | Nepal | Global |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|
| Confirmed Cases | 488645 | |
| # of patients recovered | 366946 | |
| # of people died | 5847 | |
| # of people in quarantine | | |
| # of people in isolation | | |

Source: MOHP situation report

MOHP website; <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>

VOICE

"I am happy to donate my blood for plasma therapy as this could save a life of another person. I was scared and worried when COVID-19 tested positive for me. However, Red Cross volunteers supported me to get out of it from the very beginning through psychosocial support, instruction to follow isolation rules and other support such as providing hygiene kit. Red Cross support has been crucial for my recovery from the infection as well as this has motivated me to donate blood."

-Saroj Thapa, 26, Madhyapur Thimi - Ward 3, Bhaktapur
(Voice collected by Uma Thapa, Bhaktapur District Chapter)

SECTORAL PROGRESS

Target group

- People infected by COVID-19, their families, and the communities they are living in.
- Frontline health responders
- Vulnerable groups such as elderly people, children, pregnant women, people with disability (PWD)
- Migrant returnees/labourers/workers
- School children,
- People in holding areas, quarantine centres
- People in prisons
- Public in general
- Red Cross volunteers and staff



456,902

Total people reached (direct + indirect)



956

Volunteer mobilized

Health and Care

Major progress

- 67 staff and volunteers reached through remote and physical
- 81 people were reached through COVID-19 awareness orientation
- 1,981 people reached through contact tracing surveillance
- 2,401 vulnerable people supported for vaccination
- 12,437 examination gloves were distributed
- 37 help desk established at various point which has reached to 518 people
- 186 dead body management bags distributed
- 298 COVID-19 patients received the ambulance service.
- 262 Emergency kit distributed
- 475 blood donation campaign conducted
- 78 staff and volunteer mobilized at vaccination clinics/centres
- 90 oxygen concentrators and medical items (700,000 masks, 2000 coveralls) handed over to Ministry of Health and Population.
- **Pulse Oximeter Use Guideline** for volunteers and related IEC materials developed and disseminated to all district chapters. Five volunteers and staff oriented in pulse oximeter use.



NRCS volunteer supporting at various vaccination clinic/center
(Photo: NRCS)



NRCS Rukum Purba handed over 2 oxygen cylinder (each 50 liter capacity) to Sisne Municipality of the Rukum Purba district
(Photo: NRCS Rukum)

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

Major progress

- 7 hand washing stations established at various strategic public places which has reached to 55, 628 people
- 224 people reached through hand washing demonstration session
- 8,234 water bottles distributed to the people entering Nepal from various border site, point of entry.



NRCs volunteer distributing drinking water to the people entering Nepal at Behaliya Point of entry (Photo: NRCs Rupandehi)

Risk Communication and CEA



Unit action team member of Parsa sharing information on importance of proper use of mask, and hand washing (Photo: NRCs Parsa)



NRCs volunteer, supporting the people with COVID-19 awareness message and providing sanitizer, at Birjung point of entry (Photo: NRCs Parsa)

Major progress

- 10,297 information, education and communication materials such as pamphlets, flex, stickers, flyers, brochures, banner with COVID-19 awareness messages produced and distributed
- 1,241 calls related to COVID-19 received and responded through Red Cross Hotline 1130
- 482 episodes of Red Cross radio programme and PSA has been aired through different FM stations across the country
- 1155 people reached through Unit Action team to implement the 4R approach and offline social listening and rumour tracking
- 113,553 people reached through COVID-19 awareness activities for community
- 134 people reached through training/orientation on COVID-19 risk communication.

Protection Gender and Inclusion

Major progress

- **89** Dignity kits distributed to District Public Health Office to be distributed at isolation sites
- COVID-19 Program Implementation Guideline 2078 developed
- Ensure continuity of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) prevention and response service
- Technical support to district to identify SGBV survivors through referral pathway
- Socio-economic support to street children and vulnerable groups including the one in isolation sites
- Planning for the establishment of solidarity fund
- Production and distribution of awareness IEC material on SGBV and dignified management of dead body



NRCS staff and volunteer during dignified dead body management of COVID-19 infected patient (*Photo: NRCS Myagdi*)

PMER-IM

- **162** NRCS staff and volunteers oriented on COVID-19 5W reporting system

Shelter

Key Actions

- 78 Tarpaulin, 2 tents, 20 kitchen sets and 27 in kind support at isolation site and COVID-19 infected patients
- Supporting in establishment and upgrading the isolation sites
- Supporting shelter and non-food items to the families/people affected by COVID-19
- COVID-19 expense management guideline developed
- A logistic team of NRCS along with representative from ICRC and IFRC has been formed to ensure timely supply and track all the request and pipeline for medical supplies offered by humanitarian agencies and partner national societies

GOOD PRACTICES

- Strong positioning of NRCS in supporting COVID-19 vaccine roll out through volunteer mobilization
- Door to door, mobile blood collection campaign to meet the demand of blood during lockdown
- COVID-19 awareness activities at various point of entry, isolation sites through IEC, miking, help desk.
- Significant role of NRCS staff and volunteers in dignified dead body management ensuring COVID-19 safety and security measures
- Wide range of partnership

CHALLENGES

- Exponential increase of transmission, potential risk of C-19 and emerging new variant/mutant
- High expectation from stakeholders and diverse needs of community
- Increase C-19 infection among staff and volunteers and their family members
- Unavailability of medical goods and supplies in local market limiting the service at local units

COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

- All Red Cross actions related to COVID-19 are in line with Government of Nepal MOHP, HEOC guideline and initiatives.
- NRCS province offices, district chapters and sub-chapters have remained in close contact with the local authorities and have been supporting isolation sites management.
- Participation in District Disaster Management Committee meeting along with health, WASH, PGI and shelter cluster meetings

OUR PARTNERS FOR COVID-19

RCRC Movement: ICRC and IFRC including Participating National Societies

UN agencies: UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO

Private Sectors: Coca-Cola Company, local industries and traders

Philanthropists: Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association, individual donors

Government agencies at federal, provincial and local levels

Note: This report has been prepared by PMER-IM –CEA team in consultation with concerned sectors at NRCS headquarters and main sources of information include: 5W report received from NRCS district chapters, and Situation updates from WHO and MOHP HEOC.

For further information

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- <https://www.facebook.com/nepalredcross/>; <https://twitter.com/NepalRedCross>
- For further details of the information and 5W data please find the link for COVID-19 Dashboard: [Link](#)