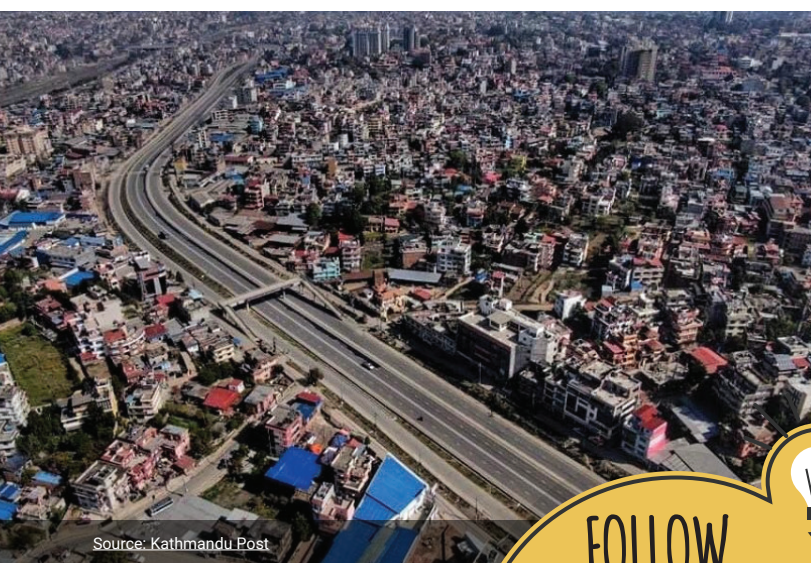


Situations like the coronavirus pandemic quickly lead to misinformation, rumors and fake news, as we saw after the earthquakes in Nepal. We can all play a role in beating the virus by making sure that we are sharing validated information and using trusted sources to inform our decision-making.

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.



**FOLLOW  
YOUR  
GOVT**

**KEY GOVT  
DECISIONS**



[MOHP Online Portal  
Corona-info](#)



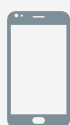
[Immigration  
Information](#)



[Nepal Police for  
Gender Based Violence](#)



[Nepal Army Mobile App  
COVID-19 Response](#)



[Nepal Government's Mobile App  
Hamro Swastha](#)



[MOHP Viber Group  
COVID-19](#)

- ▶ Nationwide lockdown extended until April 7, six-month jail to those who defy it
- ▶ Extension of international flights ban until April 15
- ▶ Nepali citizens stranded in the Nepal-India borders allowed to enter Nepal with a mandatory condition to stay in quarantine
- ▶ Hospitals refusing to treat patients will face strong legal actions
- ▶ Cremation of the dead body free for poor
- ▶ 25 lakhs insurance for the health workers and security personnel
- ▶ Govt to take loans worth approximately Rs 22 billion from the World Bank, ADB, IMF

# Rumors - Facts



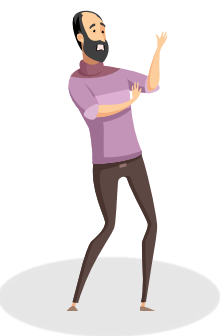
Government said to open my store. Am I ok not to open my shops? How can I provide service without wearing gloves or a mask? Who is going to give that to me? How long do I need to open my store?

The government has made it mandatory for all the shopkeepers to use gloves and masks. In addition, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies has directed the shops selling essential items such as vegetables, milk, and groceries, pharmacies to be open from 4am - 8am [4 hours] in the morning and 3pm - 5pm [2 hours] in the evening.



The returnees coming from abroad are walking here and there openly. If they continue doing this, everyone in the village will be infected by the coronavirus.

The government has decided to take strong actions against the returnees who do not inform the local government about their return and if they do not quarantine. The local government units have directed all the households to stay at home and are also raising awareness by playing audio messages through megaphones about the rules to be followed during the quarantine period.



The prisoners are being released due to the limited capacity of the prisons.

The government has considered prisons as a sensitive place with the outbreak of COVID-19. To minimize the risk, new prisoners are kept separately from the old ones for 14 days. However, the space in the prisons is limited.

The Supreme Court decided on 09/03/2020 that the prisoners who are jailed for a few days accused of minor offenses will be freed with a fine of Rs. 300 per day for the remaining days of their imprisonment. However, their application for release should be approved by the concerned court. 119 children from the Juvenile Rehabilitation Home and 60+ individuals from other prisons have already been released.



The government said that they will provide special care for pregnant women, people with disability and orphan children. What does the "special care" entail?

The home ministry has directed the ward level committees to collect the data of the people who have special conditions and are unemployed. Then, to provide them the packages with daily necessities. The packages are divided between families with four members and families with more than four members. However, it is yet not clearly mentioned anywhere on what the packages will entail.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

[World Health Organization](#)

[Ministry of Health and Population](#)

[Do's and don'ts](#)

[Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#)

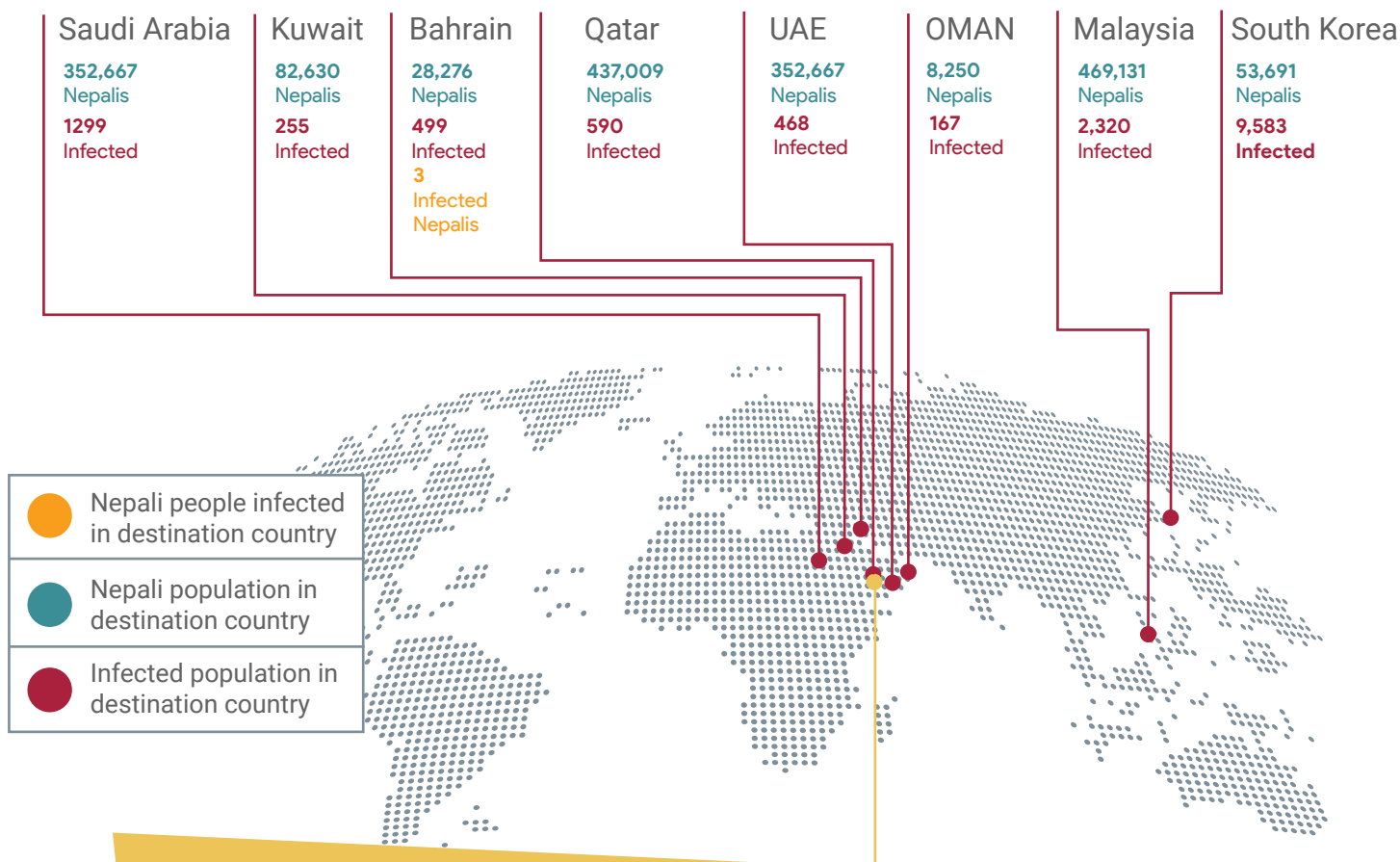
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal](#)

[Nepal Labour Force Survey Report](#)

[COVID-19 Situation](#)



# Migrant workers in major destination countries



## Kuwait: Visa renewal made easier

The Kuwait government has decided to allow migrant workers on leave, including hundreds of Nepalis, to file their visa renewal applications online amid the global coronavirus pandemic. According to the latest arrangement made by the Ministry of Interior of Kuwait, the employers of the migrant workers concerned can apply online to get their visa renewed even if they haven't arrived in Kuwait after their holiday.

## Relief package for the poor and economy recovery



Local government should make a namelist of those workers and provide them food relief throughout the lockdown



Loans to be channelled to epidemic affected areas



Food Management and Salt Trading Corporation have agreed to provide 10% discount on rice, lentils, sugar, oil and salt



House owners advised to exempt the rent for a month (especially to daily wage workers)



Employers should provide salaries to the wage workers of organized or unorganized sectors



25 percent discount on internet, and electricity up to 150 units



Community Health Units



Urban Health Centers



Health Posts



Primary Health Care Centers



Hospitals



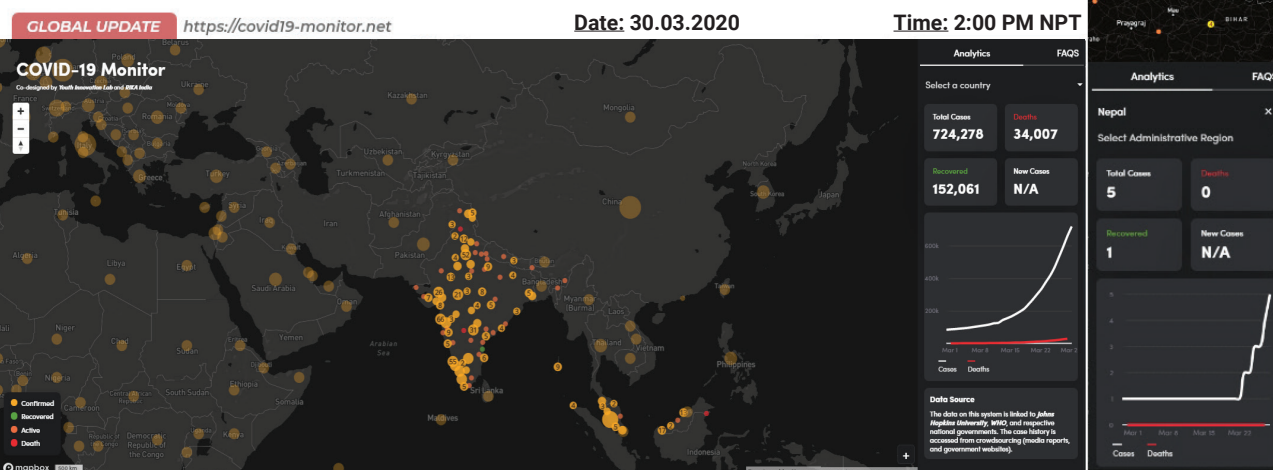
Other Health Facilities

The above figure shows the public health facilities in Nepal. We have over 3,800 health posts across the country which can work as information points for COVID 19. Urban Health Centers can also be useful for information disseminations and point of contact in municipalities while Primary Health Care Units can also facilitate the COVID 19 response efforts. This way, we can reduce the dependency on hospitals and better manage our public health facilities.



## COVID-19 Monitor

COVID-19 monitor is an easy-to-understand-and-interpret portal that tracks coronavirus patients along with their movements based on verified sources. With location filter to view country or city wise data as well as a reporting form, the portal not only provides information on major hotspots but also provides a platform to report new cases from verified sources. By providing accurate information, this interactive portal aims to support the government, related stakeholders, and general public in avoiding vulnerable locations and make informed decisions.



**The identified hotspots can help government make evidence-based decisions by:**

- ▶ Informing citizens to avoid high risk areas.
- ▶ Check the health situation of people who have been to the hotspot areas.
- ▶ Map and prepare health facilities near the hotspots to better cater to the needs.

# What Can CSOs Do?

#CSOcollective #CCCampaign #AccountabilityMatters

While CSOs in Nepal are active in raising awareness around COVID19 individually, many CSO leaders express their concerns that they need to be more proactive in ensuring collective, creative and community-based solutions to the challenges. For many INGOs/NGOs, working from home means carrying-out their usual work (report writing and reviewing policies) rather than getting creative ways to respond.

## For CSOs and NGOs

- ▶ Tracking and promoting stories of hope resilience and solidarity (see our contributions to #coronaheroes for examples);
- ▶ Using networks to listen to marginalized voices and address their needs;
- ▶ Follow government decision-making and track coronavirus related funds;
- ▶ Report corruption, particularly in healthcare systems and share data openly;
- ▶ Debunk rumors and fake news and make sure citizens are receiving validated information, like this bulletin;
- ▶ Map the most vulnerable groups in our society so others understand how and where to help them;
- ▶ Support government efforts around the response where feasible and where value can be added and support isolation facilities locally where feasible;
- ▶ Become part of our CSO collective to build constructive dialogue around the response and innovate for solutions.

## For Donors, INGOs and the UN System

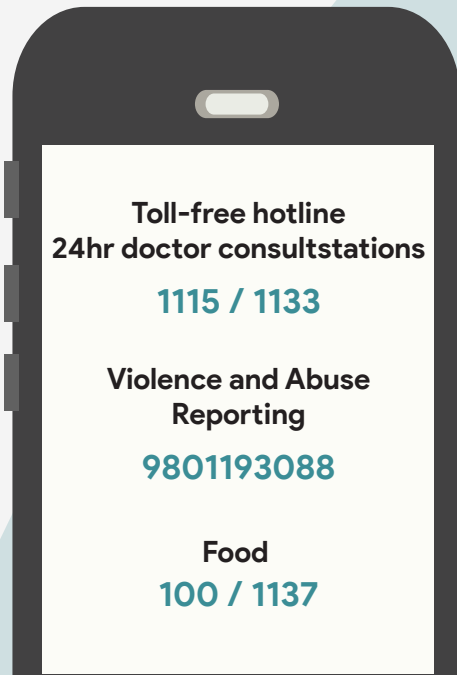
- ▶ Take context into account and show understanding of local realities and constraints;
- ▶ Welcome flexibility and allow CSOs to re-design, reschedule and re-allocate resources for COVID-19;
- ▶ Make your data on funding and other support to government, CSO and Private open and accessible;
- ▶ Allow local partners to channel more funding to Community Based Organizations and local partners;
- ▶ Simplify funding and reporting channels to streamline NGO and CSO responses.

## For the Nepali Government

- ▶ Create space for CSOs to participate in government response efforts;
- ▶ Include CSOs in high-level decision-making and feedback processes;
- ▶ Ensure all decisions and data related to the coronavirus response are open and transparent and data is shared in ways that align with open data standards;
- ▶ Work with existing networks of CBOs at the local level to address local needs.

# What if I contract **coronavirus**?

## COVID-19 HOTLINE



### Where can I get a coronavirus test?

The National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), Teku, Kathmandu and BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences are conducting tests. As the person suspected to have the virus needs to be isolated, the sample is collected by hospitals and sent to the NPHL.

### 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 test report is provided between 24-48 hours after the sample is submitted to the lab. If the report is positive, the concerned hospital or the doctor is informed.

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 1,276 people in March 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.**

