

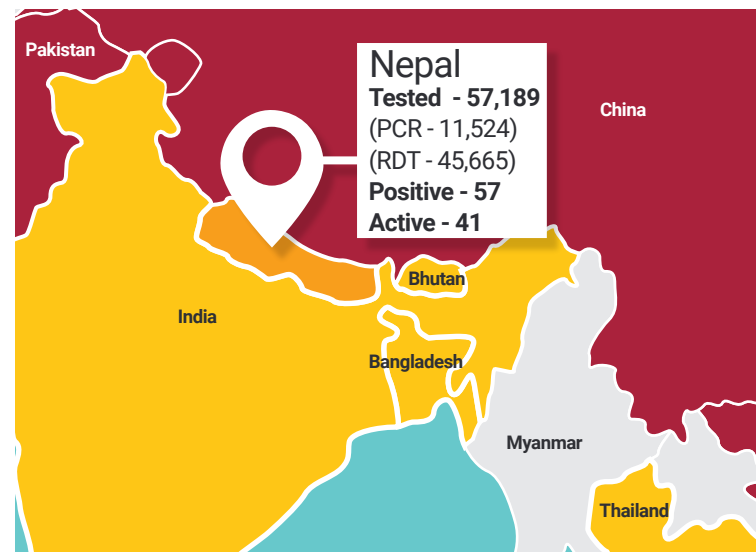
Situations like the coronavirus pandemic quickly lead to misinformation, rumors and fake news, as we saw after the earthquakes in Nepal. We can all play a role in beating the virus by making sure that we are sharing validated information and using trusted sources to inform our decision-making.

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.



Cabinet meeting to discuss on lockdown procedures against COVID-19.










Photo: PMO



Nepal Rastra Bank has directed the licensed banks and financial institutions of category “A”, “B”, “C” and “D” to give a **2% discount** on the interest rates to the business seeking loans in the fourth quarter of 2076/77 (mid- Ashad).



But, this plan is not applicable to the following businesses:

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
|  | Business related to food processing and distribution |  | Business related to gas production and distribution |  | Soap and chemicals |
|  | Business related to production and distribution of medicine |  | Internet service provider |  | Telecom service provider |
|  | Television service provider |  | Tobacco and alcohol industry |  | Ongoing hydropower projects |

Rumors & Facts



Is it true that the private hospitals have also started the testing of COVID-19?

The government has recently issued an interim guideline on minimum standards for laboratories testing Covid-19. The guideline has opened the way for those private laboratories that meet the criteria to test Covid-19. The laboratory that meets the criteria should get separate permission from the Ministry of Health and Population to start the tests.



Are the facilities of the government employees staying at home being cut off?

The leave provided by the government office, agency or industry after Chaitra 9 will be converted into public holiday without deducting their personal leave. The Ministry of Home Affairs has published the information in Nepal Gazette that their salary and other allowances will remain as it is during this period.



We hear the news that people are refusing to stay in quarantine and are running away? What happens to people with disabilities if they have to stay in quarantine or isolation?

Special arrangements should be made to keep people with disabilities in quarantine or isolation. Arrangements should be made to provide needed services to the person with a disability during the treatment including personal helpers, caregivers, sign language interpreters, and note-takers. This has been ensured by the Disability Guideline 2077 issued against COVID - 19 by the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens.



The government had decided to stop the movement from one local level to another local level during the lockdown. But now, the local units themselves are transporting the people from Kathmandu sending vehicles.

Earlier local levels had arranged vehicles to transport passengers from Kathmandu. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs later issued a letter to the security agencies and all 77 district administration offices to stop the movement of vehicles. Meanwhile, passengers coming to Kathmandu from different districts have been returned to where they came from.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

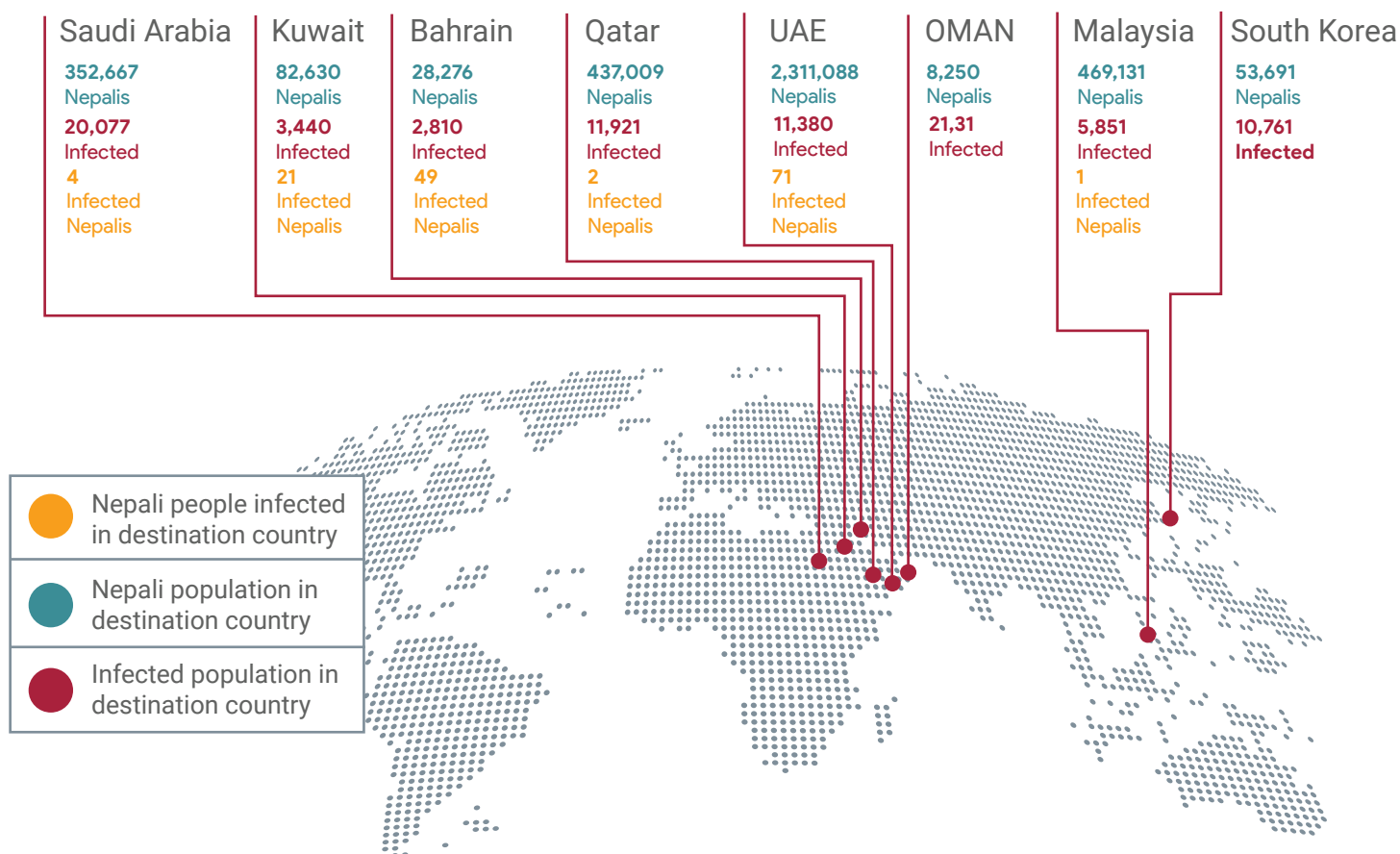
[Do's and dont's](#) [Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#)

[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

News from Gulf

1. Kuwait: Almost 2500 Nepalis have registered their name for the amnesty. Only two days remain for Nepalis to register their name for this purpose. It is estimated that around 4000 Nepalis will register for it.

3. Saudi Arabia: There are concerns from the Nepalis in Saudi Arabia that the phone calls in the Embassy of Nepal in Saudi Arabia are not answered and there is no reply from Facebook. If there is such a challenge, the embassy has requested to call on 0500031705 from 9 am to 12 am and on 0500034786 from 1 pm to 4 pm.

2. UAE: The Embassy of Nepal in UAE has requested Nepalis in UAE to fill a form with their details to understand their situation. How is their situation of food, accommodation, and employment? Are they interested to go back to Nepal? If they want to go soon, then what is the reason? These are the kinds of details asked in the form. The official website of the embassy where the form can be filled is www.uae.nepalembassy.gov.np. If you face any difficulties in filling the form, you can watch the tutorial video prepared by Shramik Sanjal. The video is available on the Youtube channel and Facebook page of Shramik Sanjal.



\$ Follow the Money

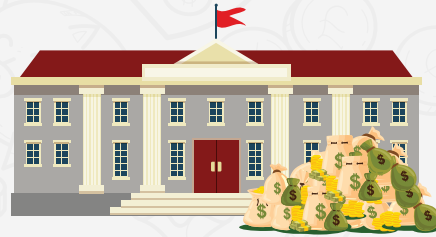
Federal Government

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 2.16B 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	400M NRS	123M NRS	177M NRS
Gandaki	Around 150M NRS	92M NRS	58M NRS
Province 5	236M NRS	126M NRS	100M NRS
Karnali	500M NRS	132M NRS	368M 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.

Ensuring Open Governance during COVID - 19

There is panic throughout the world due to the worldwide outbreak of Coronavirus. It has not only affected the underdeveloped countries, but also the developing and developed countries. This is a crisis, and it is important for everyone to come together, support, and collaborate with each other. As this is a different form of crisis, there can be problems in oversight. Good governance can fall under a shadow during this crisis. Therefore, concerned stakeholders need to take the following into consideration.



1. Borden access to information:



- As it is difficult to ask for information during the time of this pandemic, the government should be open and transparent about the situation of coronavirus, and budget related to its treatment and relief.
- The government should be active and publish notices and share it.
- The government should use the media, website, social media, and e-bulletins massively

2. Transparency in relief distribution:

The relief distribution should be effective and transparent. The name and details of the people and organization providing the relief, and the name and details of people receiving the relief should be recorded. It should be shared online as much as possible.



3. Implementation of the rule and regulation:

It is important to take strict actions against the people who are not following the rules and law giving reasons around pandemic.

4. The activeness of the monitoring bodies:

The government bodies like CIAA and National Vigilance Centre should be actively concerned about the irregularities that happen during the crisis.



5. Effective one window policy:

The activities to control coronavirus should happen under a one-window system and the government should make it effective. It is important to ensure there is citizen engagement in the system.

6. Active Hello Sarkar :

It is important to make the Hello Sarkar active and make the mechanism ready to listen to citizen's concerns effectively.



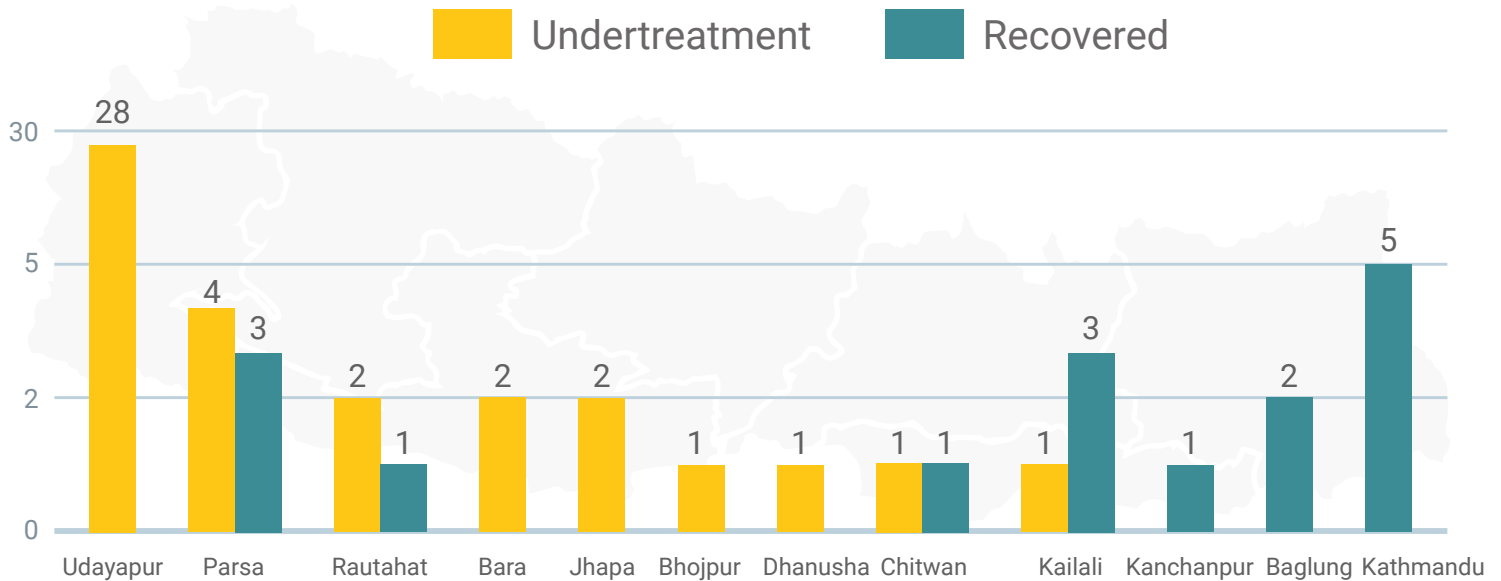
7. Unbiased investigation during the crisis:

It is important to conduct an unbiased investigation about the irregularities and corruption happening during the crisis.

Namaskar Shah, Good Governance Activist, Nepalgunj

Does the government care about reviving the economy amidst the crisis?

District-wise COVID-19 cases and their status



Nepal is in complete lockdown for over a month now. COVID-19 has now been seen in 12 districts, with only only nine districts having active cases. Parsa and Udayapur seem to be the only districts to currently have high risk of community transmission. If the number of daily tests is increased significantly and contact tracing is efficient, lockdown can be loosened in many parts of Nepal to resume economic development.

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.

