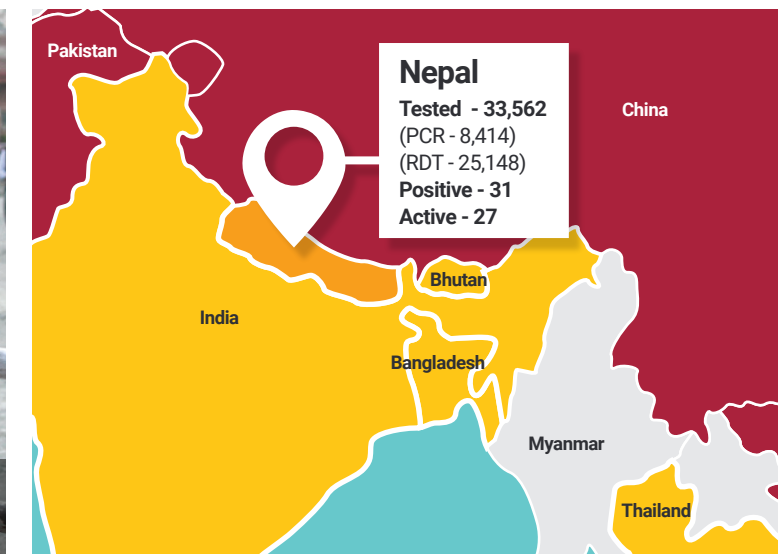Situations like the coronavirus pandemic quickly lead to misinformation, rumors and fake news, as we saw after the earthquakes in Nepal. We can all play a role in beating the virus by making sure that we are sharing validated information and using trusted sources to inform our decision-making.

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.

Daily Wage Workers
Photo: Beeju Maharjan/TKP

**Nepal**
**Tested - 33,562**
(PCR - 8,414)
(RDT - 25,148)
**Positive - 31**
**Active - 27**

Pakistan
China
India
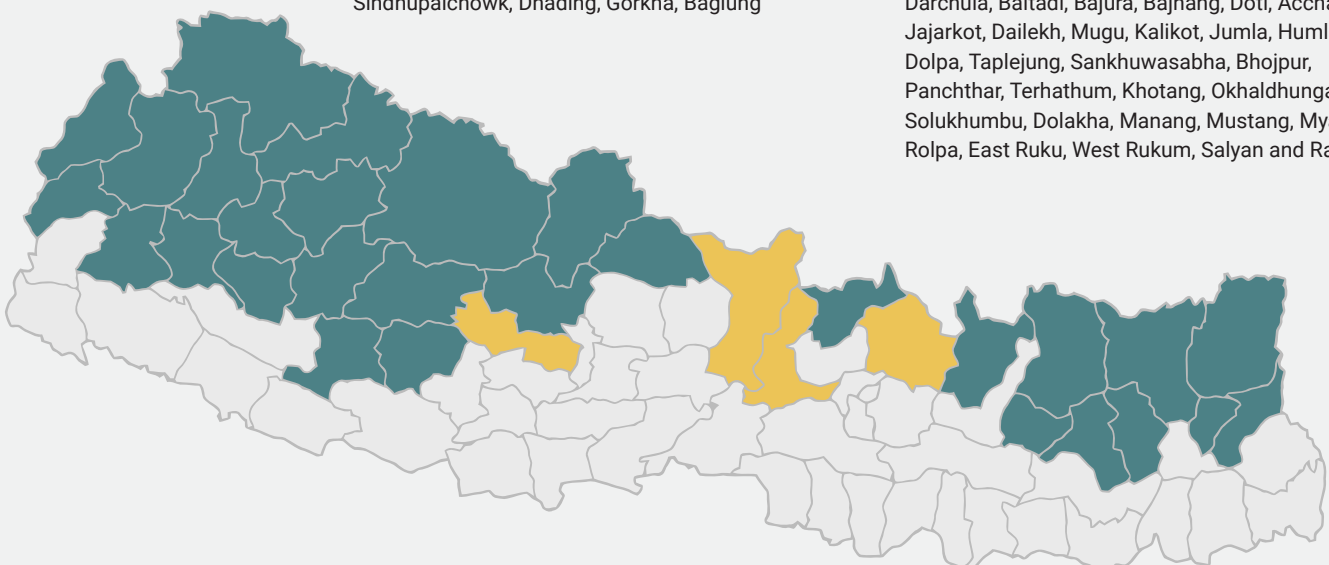Bhutan
Bangladesh
Myanmar
Thailand

## The government has introduced Air Rescue Procedure 2075 to support pregnant women and mothers with infants whose life is at risk for free covering 30 districts fully and 4 districts partially

### Fully covered districts

Sindhupalchowk, Dhading, Gorkha, Baglung

### Partially covered districts

Darchula, Baitadi, Bajura, Bajhang, Doti, Accham, Jajarkot, Dailekh, Mugu, Kalikot, Jumla, Humla, Dolpa, Taplejung, Sankhuwasabha, Bhojpur, Panchthar, Terhathum, Khotang, Okhaldhunga, Solukhumbu, Dolakha, Manang, Mustang, Myagdi, Rolpa, East Ruku, West Rukum, Salyan and Rasuwa

# Rumors & Facts

We hear that the people who were supposed to receive the relief during the lockdown haven't received it. Whom should they contact in such a case?

If you hear someone not receiving the relief during the lockdown as per the criteria laid by the government, they have been requested to inform about the situation by sending an SMS to the numbers listed below:
Province 1, Under Secretary Pralad Karki, 9851157485
Province 2, Under Secretary Rishiraj Acharya, 9841296990
Bagmati Province, Under Secretary Achyut Regmi, 9841367866
Gandaki Province, Under Secretary Baburam Bhusal, 9841353683
Province 5, Under Secretary Dilaram Panthi, 9841623228
Karnali Province, Under Secretary Ram Prasad Wagle, 9849245512
Sudurpaschim Province, Under Secretary, Resham Lal Kandel, 9851213823

The number of individuals in quarantine is decreasing whereas the number of infected individuals is increasing. What does this suggest?

As of today, the number of individuals in quarantine is 5,180. This number is decreasing day by day. The reason behind the decline in numbers is that the government has broadened the horizon of the tests and the people who test negative are sent back to stay in home quarantine.

The concerned department and headquarters have been directed to deduct the salary of their government service employees and deposit in the Corona Prevention Fund.

The Council of Ministers has directed the concerned authorities to make arrangements for a voluntary contributions of the government employees who directly get involved in corona prevention and treatment including the health workers and security personnel in the Corona Prevention, Control and Treatment Fund.

The students of school and university seem completely deprived of education at the moment. There is a chance that the lockdown will increase. What is the government's strategy on this issue?

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has decided to allocate Rs. 7 crores for the online classes of school and university level. Around 75 lakh students from the school and university level will be benefited from this program.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

World Health Organization      Ministry of Health and Population

Do's and dont's      Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center
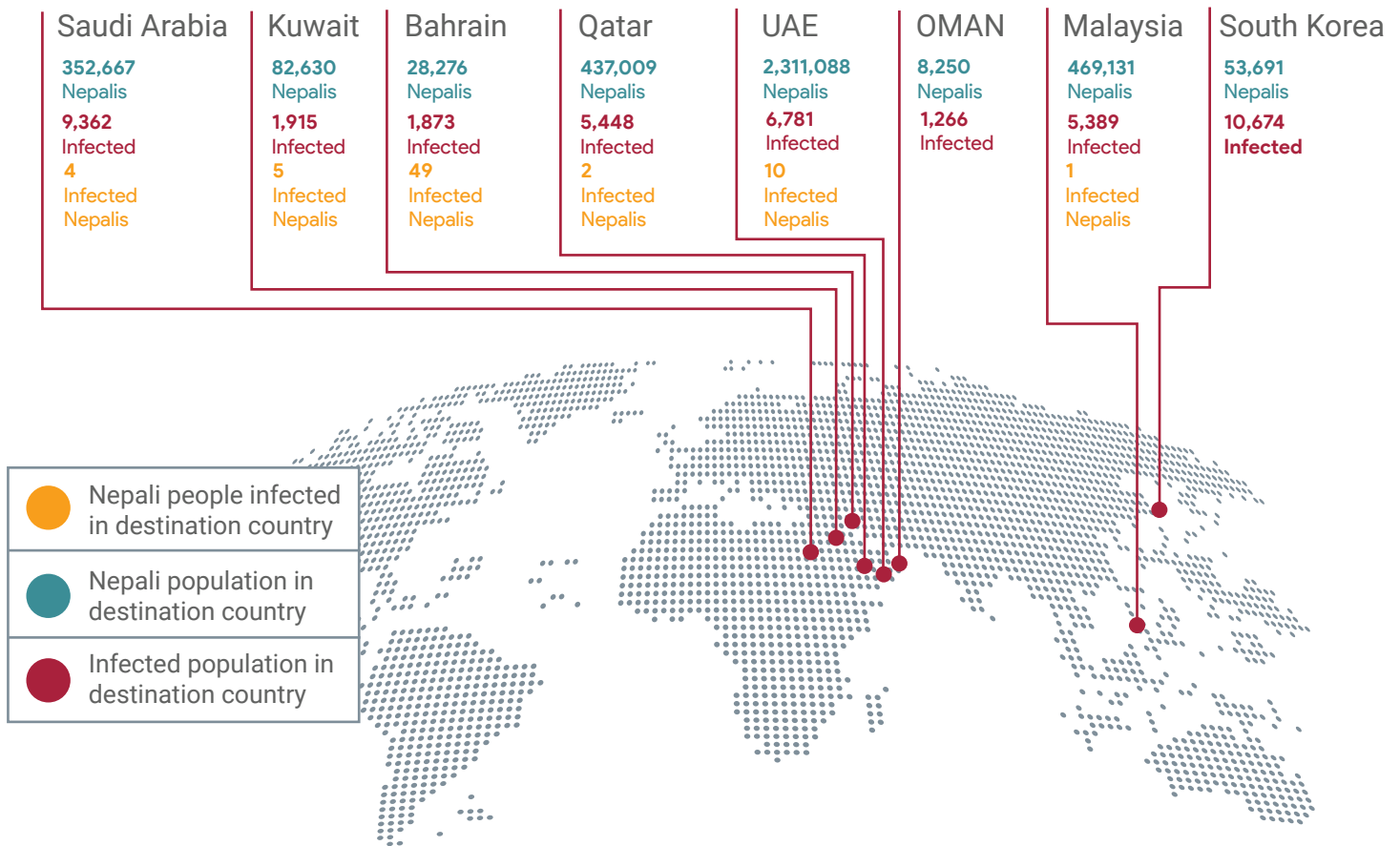
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal

Nepal Labour Force Survey Report      COVID-19 Situation

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# Migrant workers in major destination countries

| Saudi Arabia | Kuwait | Bahrain | Qatar | UAE | OMAN | Malaysia | South Korea |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **352,667** Nepalis | **82,630** Nepalis | **28,276** Nepalis | **437,009** Nepalis | **2,311,088** Nepalis | **8,250** Nepalis | **469,131** Nepalis | **53,691** Nepalis |
| **9,362** Infected | **1,915** Infected | **1,873** Infected | **5,448** Infected | **6,781** Infected | **1,266** Infected | **5,389** Infected | **10,674** Infected |
| **4** Infected Nepalis | **5** Infected Nepalis | **49** Infected Nepalis | **2** Infected Nepalis | **10** Infected Nepalis | | **1** Infected Nepalis | |

- 🟠 Nepali people infected in destination country
- 🟢 Nepali population in destination country
- 🔴 Infected population in destination country
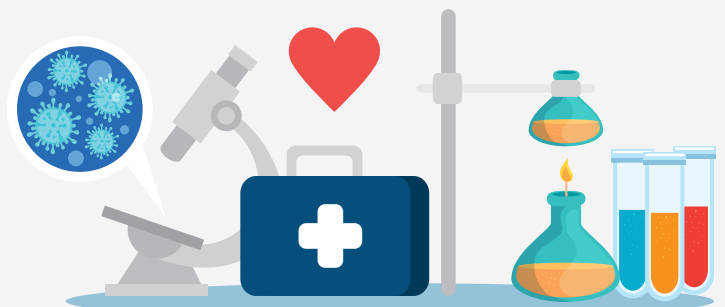
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## ShramikSanjal

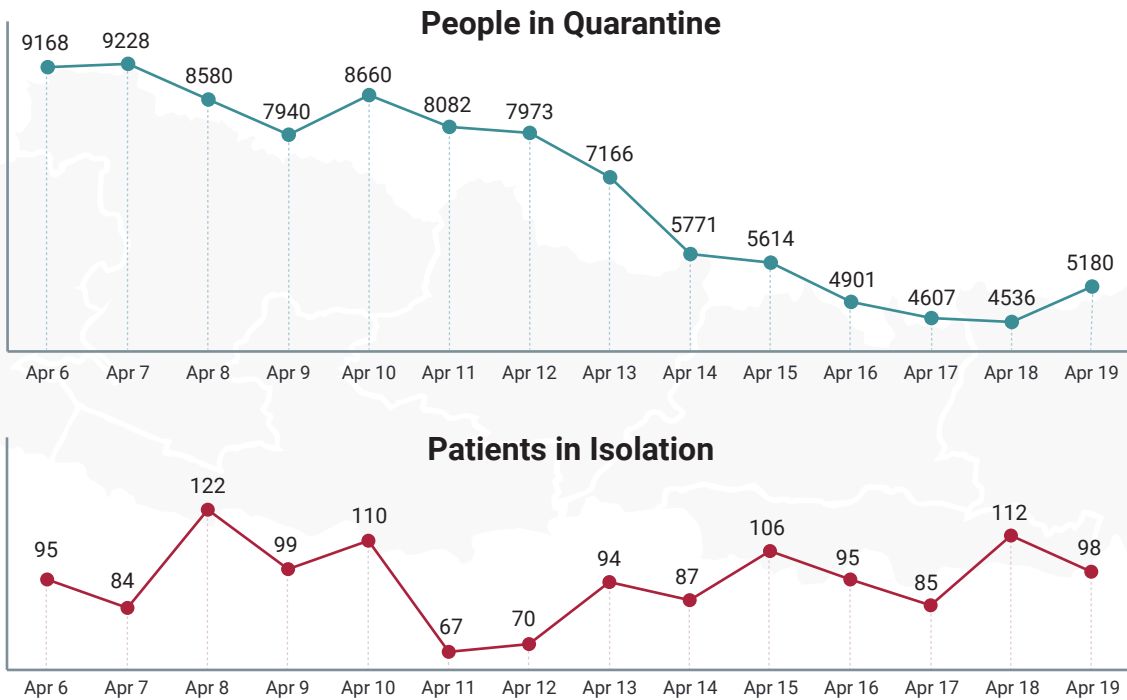## Some of the new decisions implemented by the government of Gulf Countries

**Kuwait:** The Kuwait government has announced that in case a visa of a foreigner has expired, the visa will be automatically renewed for 3 months. This facility is effective from March 1 to May 31, 2020. An online service platform is available for those who need to renew their visa under other circumstances.

**Bahrain:** The Bahrain government has announced to give amnesty to the foreign nationals residing illegally, which will be effective from 7 April 2020 to 31 December 2020.

**UAE:** Corona tests are performed for free in Abu Dhabi, Emirates, and Mussafah for the laborers. The first phase of this test is being conducted near Hyundai Showroom in Mussafah -12 and near Mussafah Market in Mussafah - 43. Similarly, this facility will also be provided to the individuals above the age of 50, and those who show the symptoms of coronavirus.

# A need for clear protocol on quarantine and isolation

## People in Quarantine

9168  9228  8580  7940  8660  8082  7973  7166  5771  5614  4901  4607  4536  5180

Apr 6  Apr 7  Apr 8  Apr 9  Apr 10  Apr 11  Apr 12  Apr 13  Apr 14  Apr 15  Apr 16  Apr 17  Apr 18  Apr 19

## Patients in Isolation

95  84  122  99  110  67  70  94  87  106  95  85  112  98

Apr 6  Apr 7  Apr 8  Apr 9  Apr 10  Apr 11  Apr 12  Apr 13  Apr 14  Apr 15  Apr 16  Apr 17  Apr 18  Apr 19

The above graphs show that the total number of people in quarantine has almost halved in the last two weeks. However, the number of patients in isolation is fluctuating on a day-to-day basis and is somehow stable over the weeks. This raises a concern about whether or not a proper protocol is being used to determine who needs isolation during quarantine and for how long.

## $ Follow the money

## Province 5

### Total Budget

## 236M NRS

### Coronavirus Prevention and Control Fund
## 100M NRS

Establishment of isolation hospital, testing and treatment, procurement of medical supplies and providing relief amount to the families of people who died from COVID-19

### Quarantine facilities, relief package for the corona affected families with low income

## 136M NRS

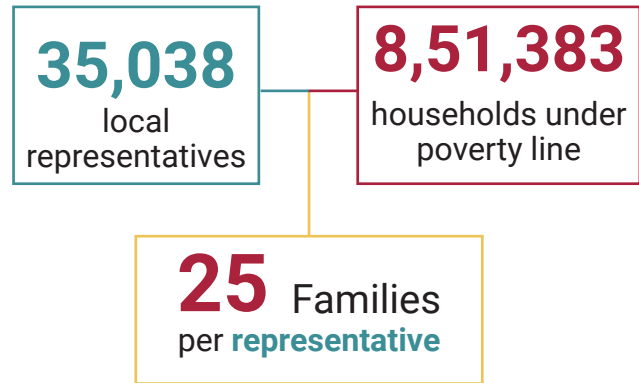**4** Sub-metropolitan city

**32** Municipality

**73** Rural Municipality

**12** District Coordination Committee

# Role of Local Government in the COVID-19 Pandemic

According to the Annual Survey 2016/017, there are 56,06,235 households in Nepal. There are more than 35 thousand people's representatives in local governments. If one representative monitors 160 families, then the problems of all families can be solved. Similarly, according to the same survey if 15.2% (851383) households under the poverty line are given special attention, then one representative can look after 25 families enabling local government to reach the doorsteps of every household.

**35,038**
local representatives

**8,51,383**
households under poverty line

**25** Families
per **representative**

It is the constitutional responsibility of the local government as per Schedule 8 (5) of the constitution to collect data and keep a record of the vulnerable citizens within their jurisdiction. Financial and food assistance, health service, psychosocial counseling, and information is the need of the pandemic. To provide these services, pocket areas should be identified and a mechanism should be created and mobilized in the leadership of the ward.

Make arrangements for the food and other necessary relief for the individuals with low economic status and daily wage workers and distribute it in their local unit. Also, coordinate with wards to make a contact list of the grocery, medicine and other essential supplies distributors and regularly circulate information related to it among the public.
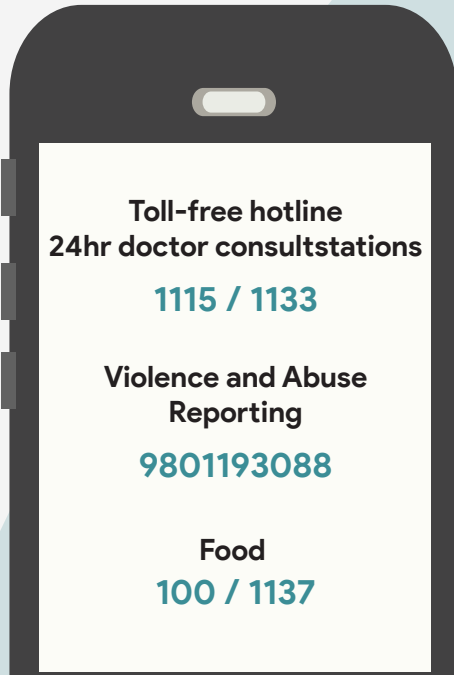
## Other Suggestions

- Provide transparent information about the government's work, location and time of service delivery, details of the expenditure, and support received covering all the areas of the local unit through telephone, online news portal, a government website, social media, posters, and other mediums. The monitoring opportunities for the citizens should be provided as anyone can be involved in irregularities during the crisis.

- There are several news published about the laborers and individuals facing difficulties in managing their livelihood returning to their home walking from Kathmandu valley. The local government has to coordinate with the security bodies and relevant stakeholders to arrange transportation, rescue and manage quarantine facilities for them. ( Chaukune Rural Municipality, Surkhet - rescued 12 people from Jhapa sending a microbus)

- Creation and use of a mechanism at citizen's level to build confidence and guardianship through constant communication and support: Use of social media to listen to their concerns, being constantly present for phone contact (Belaka Municipality, Udayapur)

- Mobilizing female health volunteers in communities to raise awareness about the challenges posed by COVID-19 and establishing health desks in coordination with ward offices to provide essential health services and information.

*Tanka Aryal, Open Government Champion*

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# What if I contract **coronavirus**?

## COVID-19 HOTLINE

**Toll-free hotline 24hr doctor consultstations**
1115 / 1133

**Violence and Abuse Reporting**
9801193088

**Food**
100 / 1137

**Where can I get a coronavirus test?**
The National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) Teku, Kathmandu, Bharatpur, Dhulikhel, Bhairahawa as well as all provincial hospitals 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.

**Coronavirus CivActs Campaign** is brought to you by **Accountability Lab Nepal.**

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communities