

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.



Lockdown Leaves Bhutani Refugees Hungry  
Source: The Rising Nepal



## Restriction for local government expenses on 14 budget headings

- ✓ Service and Consultation
- ✓ Computer, Software, Procurement and Intellectual Property
- ✓ Staff Training
- ✓ Vehicle
- ✓ Programs
- ✓ Furniture and Fixture
- ✓ Skill Development, Awareness Raising, and Training and Seminar
- ✓ Machinery and Equipment
- ✓ Miscellaneous
- ✓ Capital Research and Counseling
- ✓ Monitoring and Evaluation [Except those extremely necessary]
- ✓ Land Acquisition
- ✓ Occasional Revenue
- ✓ Occasional Capital

# Rumors - Facts



All the local government units are providing relief materials for the locals in need. Where does the money come from? Are they cutting on our development budget?

The cabinet of ministers' meeting decision has directed the local government units to support the people in need during the outbreak by establishing a Corona Prevention, Control, and Treatment Fund by changing the budget heads for the approved budget for the current fiscal year. In addition, the government has put a restriction on the budget expense for projects other than the ones which have already started or the bids have been submitted prior to 2 April 2020.



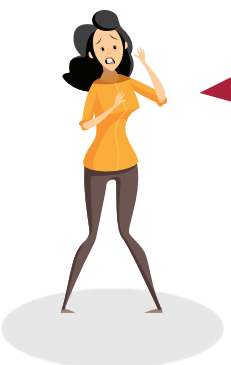
We have heard that the government is being more strict on the lockdown. What does it mean?

Earlier, only the people coming from abroad had been infected by the virus. But, now there is a case of one infected person transmitting it to the other within the country. The government has decided to be more strict to control the transmission by restricting the movement from one province to another province, one district to another district, and one local unit to another local unit.



As Nepalese have received BCG vaccination, Coronavirus cannot be transmitted to us.

Coronavirus is a completely new virus and has no relation to the BCG vaccination. It is false information that the mandatory BCG vaccine given to Children in Nepal prevents the virus. It is important to stay at home, practice social distancing and wash your hands regularly to prevent virus transmission.



There are people coming out to provide relief to the people in need. The transmission can increase if this continues. What is the government doing in such instances?

The government has directed all the local government units to coordinate the relief for the people in need. In case, any individual or organization wants to provide the support, they have to contact the local government unit of the respective area. The government has published a notice stating that organizations and the public should not encourage the crowd in the name of relief. The government is going to take action as per the law in case of such incidence.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

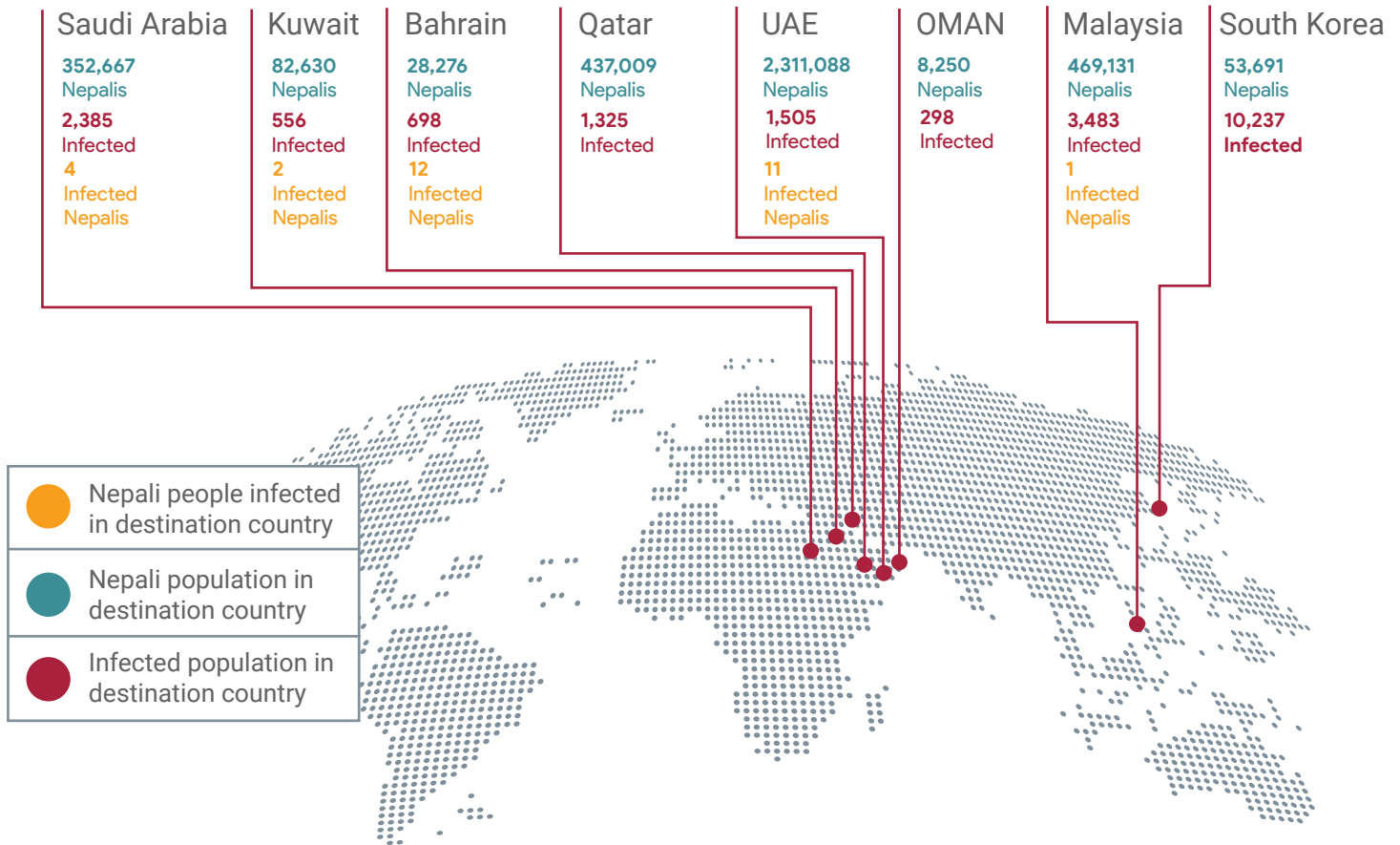
[Do's and don'ts](#)      [Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#)

[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



ShramikSanjal

## A request to the government from migrant workers in Kuwait

The government of Kuwait is ready to provide amnesty to all the migrant workers staying in Kuwait illegally without a fine. Among the total 200,000 migrant workers staying in Kuwait, there are around 9000 Nepalis staying illegally. The Kuwait government has defined registration dates for the migrant workers from different countries for the process. The date for Nepali migrant workers to register themselves is from April 25 to April 30.

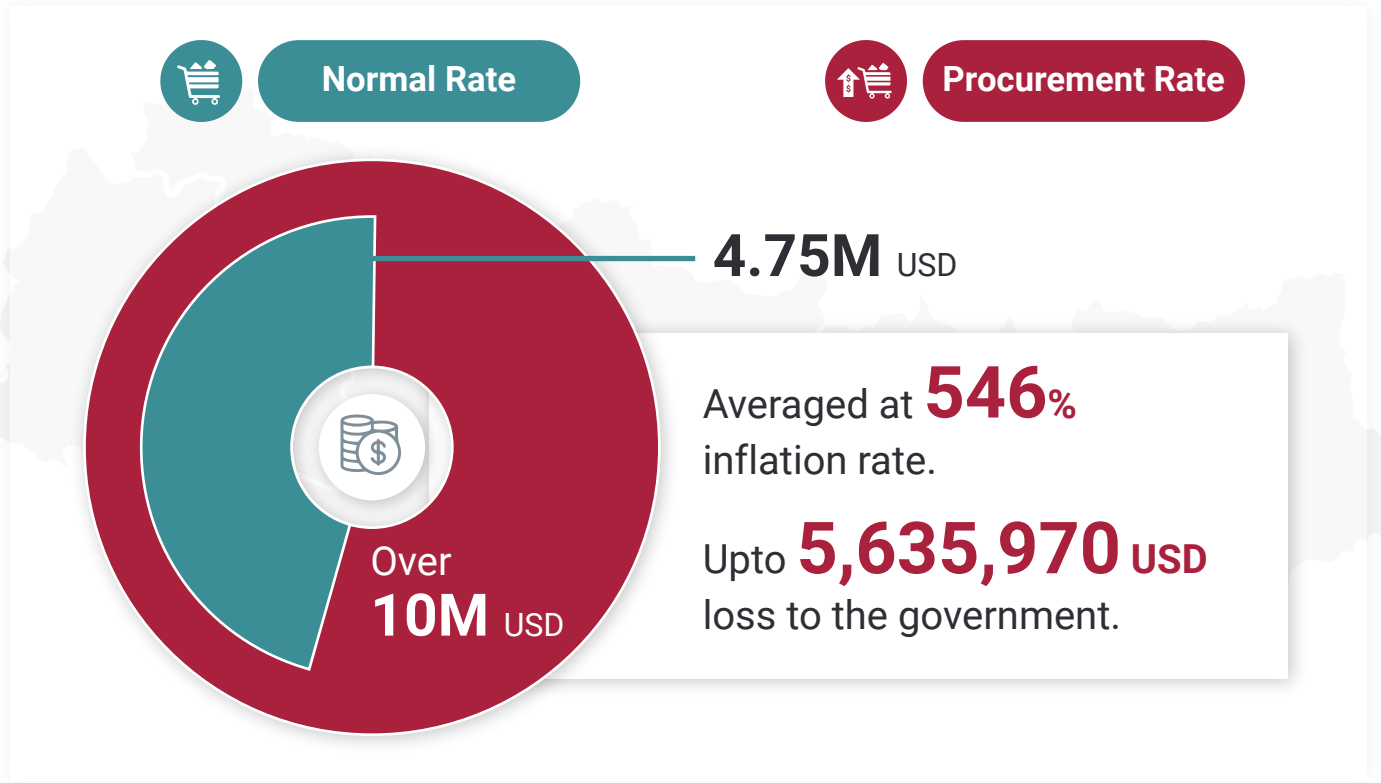
After they register the name, the Kuwait government will take them to their own camp. Until the travel dates of the migrant workers are fixed they will be provided with accommodation and food from the government. Further, the Kuwait government will send the migrant workers back to their countries at their own expense. So, neither the Nepal government nor the migrant workers will have to pay for this whole process.

Earlier, when the migrant workers stayed illegally and provided amnesty they were not allowed to re-enter in the country. However, this time, the Kuwait government will allow those migrant workers to re-enter and work legally if they want to do so.

### Two decisions from the Nepal government that will benefit thousands of Nepali migrant workers staying illegally in Kuwait:

- ▶ The government making arrangements for the migrant workers to return home
- ▶ Arranging 14 days quarantine for those who return. The migrant workers can also pay for the quarantine themselves. The government just needs to make arrangements to do so.

# Is the government properly following procurement processes to purchase medical items?



The above chart shows the comparison between the normal rate of medical items and agreed rate of procurement with Omni Group by the government. The procurement price has inflated by 546 percent with some individual item prices being inflated by up to 2000 percent. Even though the contract has now been voided, it shows that the procurement process has been overlooked and the contract was issued with questionable intentions. Nepali government needs to learn from this mistake.

## Follow the Money





# Professional Ethics during COVID - 19 Pandemic from Nepal Medical Council

- ✚ Doctors have a duty to provide service to the patients and support hospital administration, health care system, colleagues and society in general.
- ✚ Doctors have a duty to safeguard their own health to provide healthcare to others and act in the best interest of their family members, relatives, and friends.
- ✚ Doctors have a duty to be informed about prevention, treatment, management and other aspects of COVID-19.
- ✚ Doctors have an obligation to minimize the risk to the patients, other staff members, family members, and oneself.
- ✚ Doctors have an obligation to prevent further spread of the disease by sound infection control and other appropriate measures.
- ✚ Doctors are obliged to act within terms of employment contracts and respect the human rights of individuals and groups as far as possible.
- ✚ Doctors need to balance the terms of imperatives of public health against personal autonomy on an individual's health care demands to prevent the spread of the disease.
- ✚ Doctors have to respect the autonomous decision of other stakeholders (government bodies, ministry of health, etc) and their evaluation of risk and benefits.



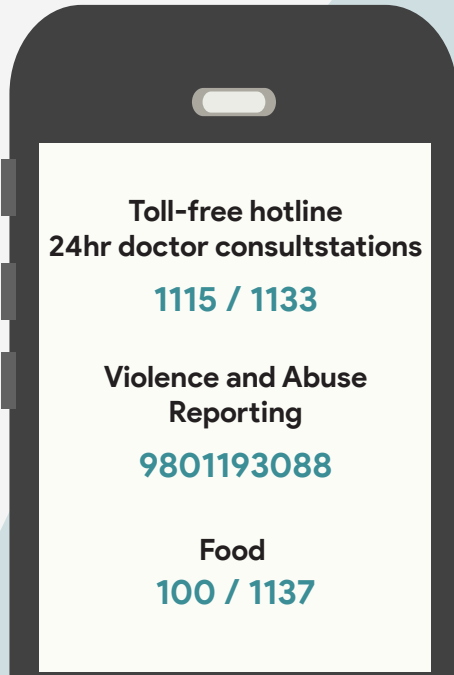
## Government's Accountability towards Health Workers

- ✚ Provide information, instruction, and training on occupational safety and health including refresher training on infection prevention and use of personal protective equipment (PPE);
- ✚ Provide adequate IPC and PPE supplies in sufficient quantity to healthcare staffs;
- ✚ Provide a blame-free environment for workers to report on incidents, such as exposures to blood or bodily fluids from the respiratory system or to cases of violence, and to adopt measures for immediate followup, including support to victims;
- ✚ Allow workers to exercise the right to remove themselves from a work situation that they have reasonable justification to believe presents an imminent and serious danger to their life or health;
- ✚ Honor the right to compensation, rehabilitation, and curative services if infected with COVID-19 following exposure in the workplace.



# What if I contract **coronavirus**?

## COVID-19 HOTLINE



### **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.

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 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.**

