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.

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**Government Mechanisms:**

**Overall management of relief distributed from local government**

**Generally distributed relief management:**

1. Amount of the Coronavirus Infection Prevention, Control, and Treatment Fund established at the local level
2. Amount of the Corona Infection, Prevention, Control, and Treatment Fund established at the province level
3. Based on the demand from the Corona Infection, Prevention, Control, and Treatment Fund of Nepal Government if the amount from the above is insufficient

**Wage-based relief management:**

1. Prime Minister Employment Program
2. Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project
3. Local-level development programs
4. Amount of the corona infection, prevention, control, and treatment fund
The government has been extending the lockdown. The relief provided to the daily-wage workers earlier won’t be sufficient, will the government provide additional relief packages again?

The government is reviewing the relief program as the period of lockdown is extending. For this, the workers listed as unemployed at the local level will be employed by local, state, and federal level offices. The workers will be provided with wages in the form of cash or food. But, if an unemployed person opts not to come to work and claims the relief, they will only get food equivalent to 25% of the wage.

On one hand, it has been said that all air services will be closed until Baisakh 2 whereas, on the other hand, it has been decided that the workers selected through EPS will be permitted to go to Korea. It is not clear.

The government has decided to allow those individuals, who have a valid entry permit to work in South Korea under the EPS system and are on leave in Nepal to return to Korea voluntarily on their own expense in a charter flight.

The private sector market is completely shut down. It is unlikely for the food produced from the agricultural sector to reach a proper market. What should a farmer entirely dependent on agriculture do?

Taking this issue into consideration, the government is making arrangements to buy and sell basic food items such as wheat, maize, paddy, millet, beans, pulses etc from farmers and producers through Food Management and Trading Company and Salt Trading Corporation.

Can a corona infected mother breastfeed her child? It is said that the corona can easily transmit to a child.

There is no truth in the statement that coronavirus can transmit from mother to child during breastfeeding. The child can be breastfed with caution. But it is important for the mother to wash her hand properly with soap and water and wear a mask before coming in contact with the child.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

World Health Organization  Ministry of Health and Population
Do’s and dont’s  Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center
1. **Bahrain**: The Nepali Embassy in Bahrain has requested the migrant workers to fill in their details to find out the status of Nepalese in Bahrain. What is the condition of eating, shelter, and employment? Do they want to return Nepal or not? If yes, why? This sort of detail should be disclosed. To fill the form, the workers can visit the official website of the Embassy at https://bh.nepalembassy.gov.np/.

2. **Qatar**: The Nepali Embassy has received complaints that some companies have forced the workers to leave their homes. For this, you can contact the hotline number 40280660 of the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs of Qatar. The Ministry had earlier, targeting the interest of both employer and worker, has directed that the workers should not be deprived of food and accommodation. Nearly 3 lakh 51 thousand Nepalese are residing in Qatar at present.

**Medical supplies to Nepal from Qatar and UAE**

**Qatar**: Three layer masks 5 lakh units, medical masks 55 thousand units, surgical masks 55 thousand units, face shields 15 thousand units, gloves 50 thousand units, surgical gowns 30 thousand units and goggles 30 thousand units. 7 lakh 42 thousand units in total.

**UAE**: 6,871 kilograms of health items in total. (the exact amount of the items is not known)
May Day - International Labor Day

Some Facts

• According to ILO, at least 53 Lakh to 2 Crore 47 Lakh labor workers will be jobless worldwide.
• According to World Bank (2019), the total number of laborers in Nepal is 16,711,782
• Employment of around 55 Lakh Nepalis outside the country is at risk. (About 35 Lakh Nepalis in foreign employment and estimated 20 Lakh working in India)
• Remittance contributes about 30% in the total GDP of Nepal.
• About 10 Lakh individuals working in the tourism sector inside Nepal are likely to lose their jobs.

What can be done immediately?

• Daily wage workers are more afraid of starvation than coronavirus. It is important to make arrangements for their food and shelter.
• It is important to pay attention to the health and safety of the workers. Especially those working in the waste and other sectors which expose them to disease and infection should be provided with masks and other safety equipment.
• Ensure that the workers in the formal sector are provided the services and facilities decided by the government.
• The government of Nepal should immediately collect the information regarding the workers and their current status, which will make the decision making process for relief distribution easier.
• As the risk of flood and landslide along with coronavirus will increase with the onset of monsoon, the local, provincial and federal government should be involved in the preparations.
• The workers in foreign employment are willing to return to Nepal. The government has to create a conducive environment for them.
• Long Term plans should be made keeping in view the anticipated future unemployment.
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**

The total expenditure of Nepal government’s activities against Coronavirus

**Around 1.5B NRS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Total Amount</th>
<th>Spent Amount</th>
<th>Remaining Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Province 1</td>
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<td>Around 120M NRS</td>
<td>Around 168M NRS</td>
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<td>Province 2</td>
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<td>Sudurpaschim</td>
<td>Around 402M NRS</td>
<td>202M NRS</td>
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</tbody>
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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.
The cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SAGBV) has surged or surfaced during the COVID crisis. According to the Women Rehabilitation Center (WOREC), 128 cases were reported in the last month itself. Here are a few recommendations for its management:

1. Case Definition:
   It is important to understand that SAGBV is beyond husband beating his wife, but includes intimate partner violence, marital rapes, diverse forms of violence against women, discrimination on LGBTIQ and persons with disabilities, acid attacks, discrimination during menstruation, forced marriage, etc. All these different forms of violence are increasing during COVID-19 crisis.

2. Case Reporting and Management:
   Women’s cell, police, court, and hospitals should continue to function even at the time of lockdown to encourage case reporting and management. Shelter homes for violence survivors should be made ready if the victims of violence need accommodation.

3. Support services:
   The government and many organizations are providing free legal, psychosocial, financial support, and telecounseling services. It is important to use technology such as radio and TV programs, social media, apps, webinars, push messages must be mobilized to convey information to reach the grassroots.

4. Mobilizing locals:
   At this time of lockdown, local women’s groups, mothers’ groups, cooperatives, feminist organizations must mobilize their resources and networks to identify, report and manage cases.

   - Medha Sharma, Women Rights Activist

5. Relief support:
   Provide a minimum relief package for women and girls, including special packages for pregnant and neonatal mothers. These should include nutritious food, hygiene products, dignity kits, contraceptives, contraceptive devices, menstrual health management products, etc.

In case you or anyone in your family or community face any kind of SAGBV, please report to:

- Official helpline numbers of the concerned government department.
- For air evacuation for life-threatening cases:
  - President’s Women Empowerment Program (in 34 hill districts): 9851255254
- For legal support, contact:
  - FWLD: 9841318201, 9848010100

In case of denial of any sexual and reproductive health-related services, contact:

- Visible Impact: facebook.com/RightOverMyBodyWhoDecides
- Reproductive Health and Rights Working Group (RHRWG): 9841450846, 9851069980
- For psychosocial support, contact:
  - PO toll free number: 1600 01 0 2005

For distress calls, one can contact
- Nepal Police Emergency Number 100
- GBV elimination Division, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen: 9841607664
- Asha Crisis Center: 9801193088
- National Women Commission’s Khabar Garaun hotline: 1145
- For air evacuation for life-threatening cases: 9851255254
The global experience of coronavirus shows that it takes two to eight weeks to recover from it. However, the graph above shows that recovery duration in Nepal is getting shorter and its moving average (the average recovery duration of patients by filtering random jumps in individual durations) shows that recovery duration is falling to almost a week. This could have two very important implications; 1) The cases were identified very late and; 2) The cases only had mild effects of the virus. Either way, it means that the government’s testing pace could significantly be increased as hospitals will be much less occupied due to this fact.

Are the effects of coronavirus milder in Nepal? Or are we just identifying the cases too late?

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.