

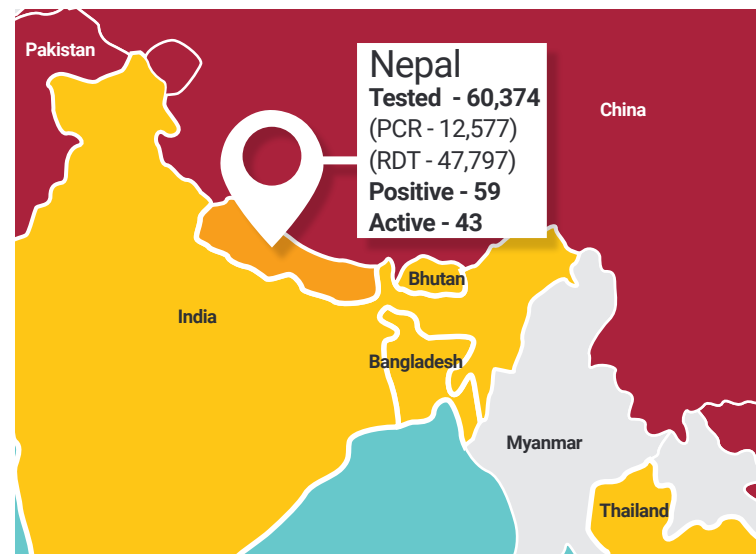
Situations like the coronavirus pandemic quickly lead to misinformation, rumors and fake news, as we saw after the earthquakes in Nepal. We can all play a role in beating the virus by making sure that we are sharing validated information and using trusted sources to inform our decision-making.

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.



People maintain social distance as they wait for food distributed by the volunteers during the lockdown.

Photo: Reuters



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



Rumors & Facts



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](#)

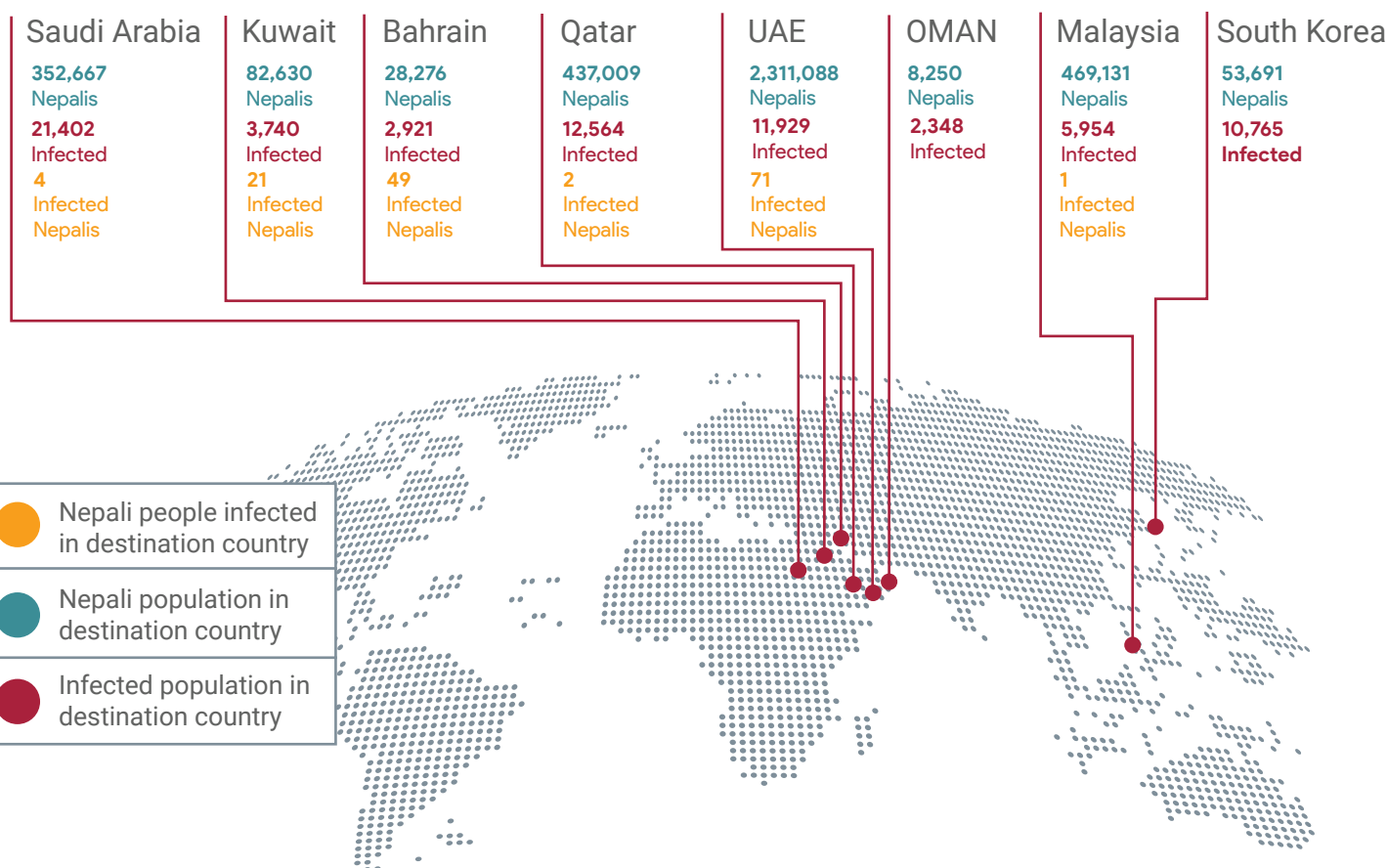
[Do's and don't's](#) [Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#)

[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

Important information from Gulf countries

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 Nepa 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 shouldnt be deprived of food and accomodation. 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.



\$ Follow the Money

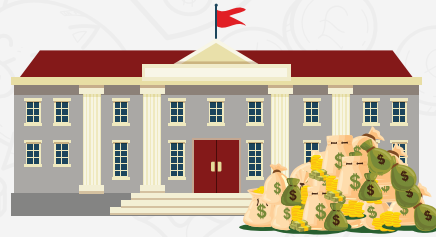
Federal Government

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.

Management of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence at COVID

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

Visible Impact:

[facebook.com/RightOverMyBodyWhoDecides](https://www.facebook.com/RightOverMyBodyWhoDecides)

Reproductive Health and Rights Working Group (RHRWG): **9841450846, 9851069980**

For air evacuation for life-threatening cases:

President's Women Empowerment Program (in 34 hill districts):

9851255254

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



Women, Children and Senior Citizen Directorate: **01 4410785**

National Women Commission's Khabar Garaun hotline: **1145**

GBV elimination Division, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen: **9841607664**

Asha Crisis Center : **9801193088**

For legal support, contact:

FWLD : **9841318201, 9848010100**

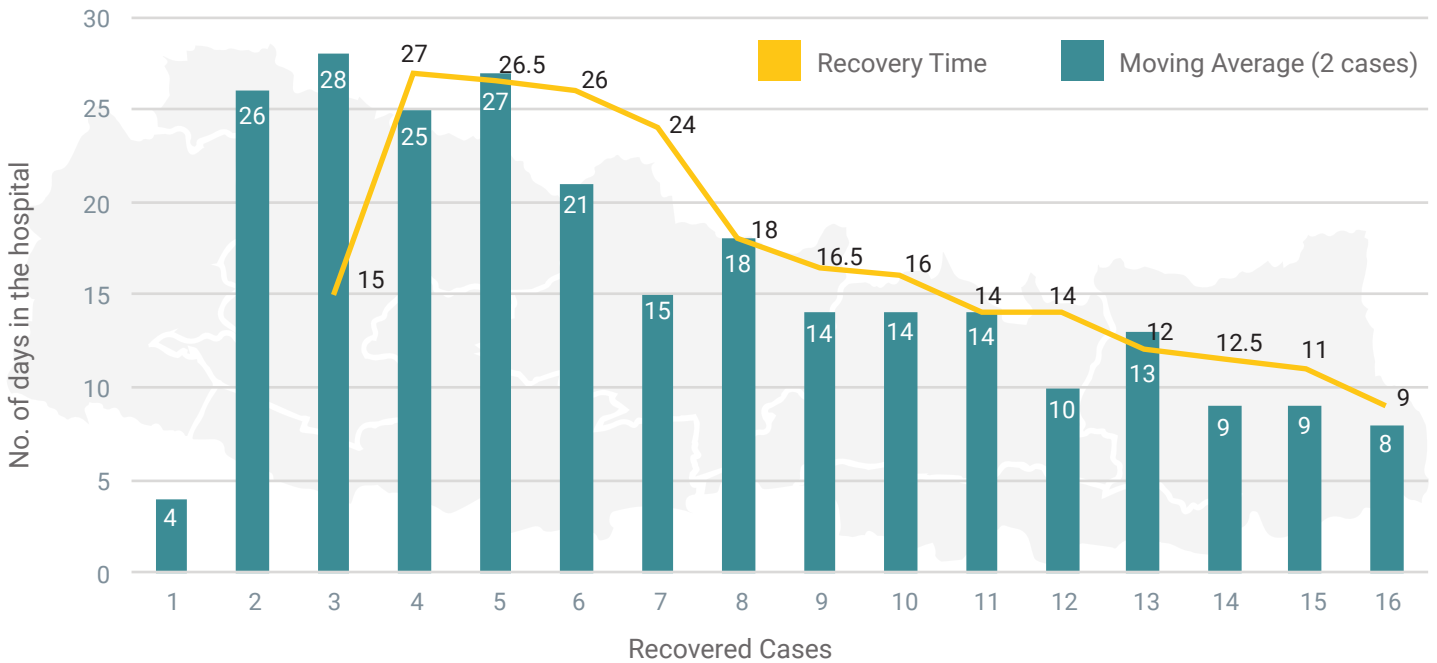
For psychosocial support, contact:

PO toll free number: **1600 01 0 2005**

100
Nepal Police
Emergency Number

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

Recovery time and moving average of COVID-19 cases in Nepal



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 it's 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.

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**.

