

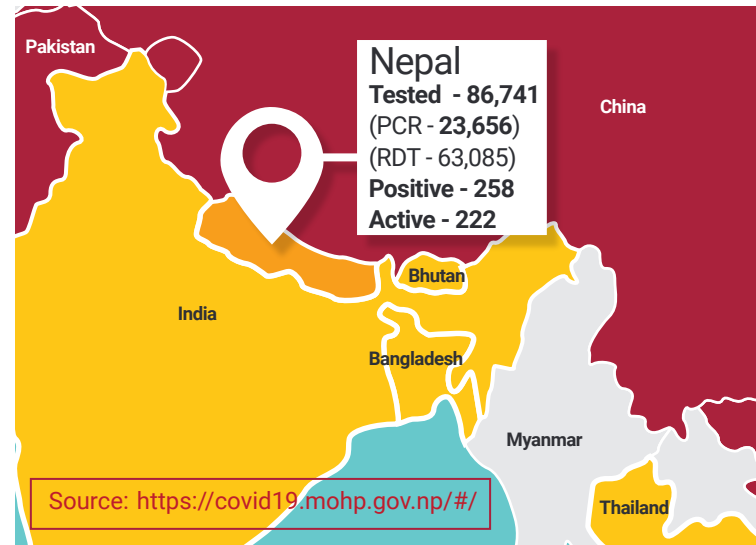
Situations like the coronavirus pandemic quickly lead to misinformation, rumors and fake news, as we saw after the earthquakes in Nepal. We can all play a role in beating the virus by making sure that we are sharing validated information and using trusted sources to inform our decision-making.

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 in a queue as they wait to get tested for coronavirus at the Kalimati vegetable market during the lockdown.

Photo: Prabin Ranabhat



Case research and contact tracing team for COVID-19

Total local level units

754

Total number of team

1, 075

Total technical human resource involved in the team

3,225

What does the team do?

Case research

Identification of the individuals who have come in contact

General counseling, follow-up and referral

Sample collection and rapid testing

Supervision and monitoring

Data collection, analysis and analytical reporting

Communication, coordination & collaboration

Necessary technical assistance in the health services operated by local level

Outbreak management of other contagious diseases

Source: [file:///C:/Users/Envy%20LAPTOP-G3GS00UC/Downloads/Final-Approved-Version-CICTT-Guidelines-MoHP-13-May-2020\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Envy%20LAPTOP-G3GS00UC/Downloads/Final-Approved-Version-CICTT-Guidelines-MoHP-13-May-2020(1).pdf)

Rumors & Facts



We have heard that certain target groups will be provided with additional nutritious food during the lockdown. What does this mean?

It means that nutritious flour (Super Cereal, Wheat Soya Blend, or WSB+) would be distributed in the COVID-19 affected areas to various target groups. Children aged 6 to 59 months would get 100 grams of nutritious flour while pregnant women, newborn mothers, and senior citizens would each get 200 grams of the same.

Source: <https://mofaga.gov.np/>



The government says that they have started running mobile shops, but why is it never seen around our locality?

Salt Trading Corporation Limited is operating the mobile service shops (mobile vans) from its sales centers in Lalitpur, Kalimati, Satungal, Koteshwor, Bhaktapur, and Banepa prioritizing the places with high population density and consumer demand including different places of Kathmandu Valley for the sale and distribution of food.

Source: <https://moics.gov.np/>



It is said that the lockdown has made it difficult for pregnant women to get regular checkups and iron tablets.

As per the advice of health personnel, a pregnant woman should go to a health post at least four times (4,6,8 and 9 months) for the checkup. Those women should take iron folic acid tablets every day and for 45 days after delivery. It has been directed to make arrangements for the regular check-up of pregnant women and for health workers to provide pregnant women with iron folic acid sufficient until the next meeting and to give 45 tablets to the women who recently gave birth at once.

Source: <https://mofaga.gov.np/>



The health posts at the local level only provide referral services to the patients who are suspected to be infected with corona.

According to the capacity of the technical manpower working at the health posts, public health centers and primary hospitals, the patients suspected with coronavirus are referred to the nearby COVID hospital for test after counseling as per the orders received.

Source: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Jrg02HTqN-q8KkUESCne35GreQOL199h/view>

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

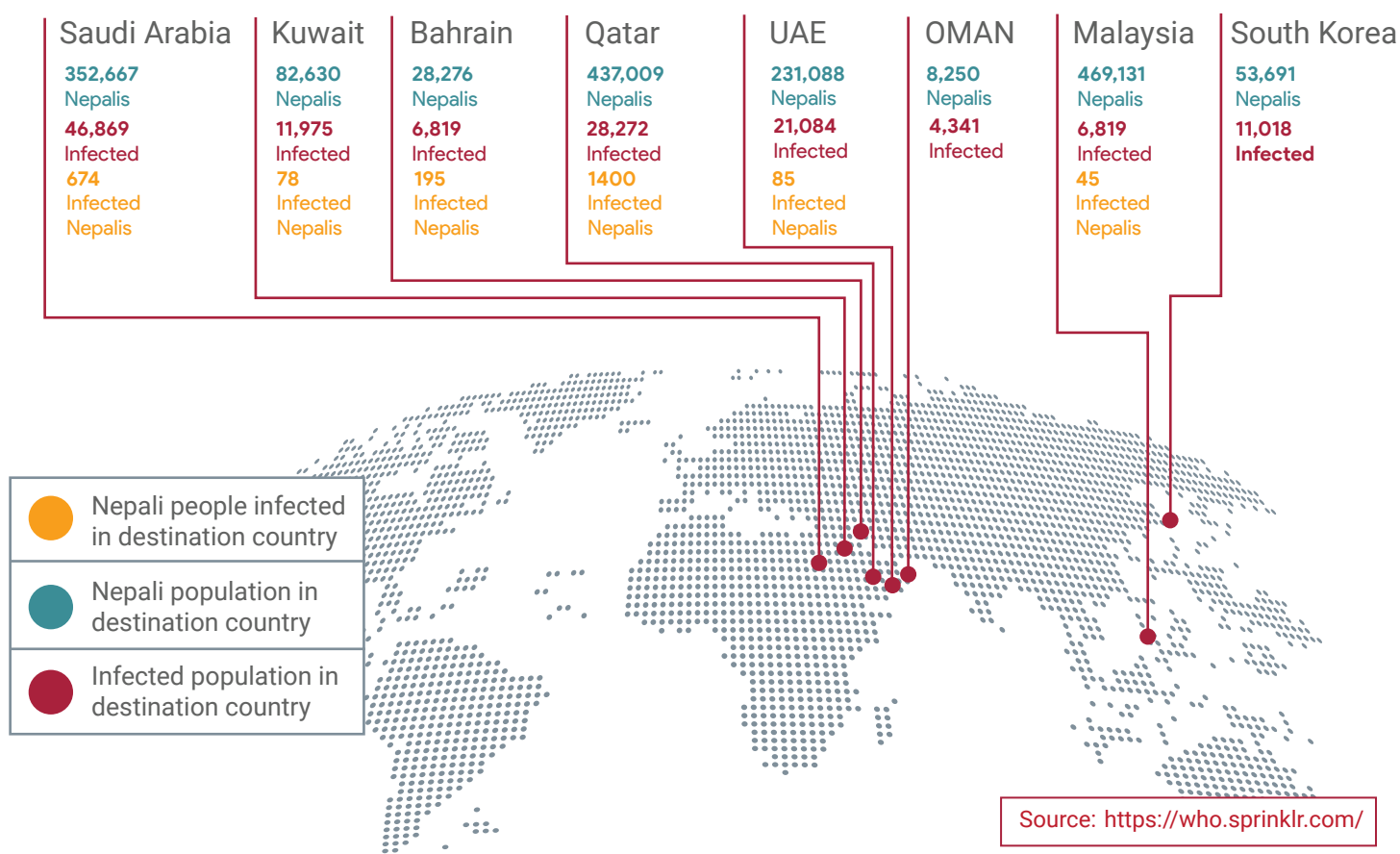
[Do's and don't's](#) [Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#)

[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

Some decisions made in favor of workers in the labor destinations

UAE :

- For those who have to pay a fine for the expiration of their visa before 1 March, it has been decided to allow them to return to their country without paying a fine from 18 March to 3 months thereafter.
- Driving schools have been reopened in Sharjah, Ajman and Ras Al Khaimah. The driving trail test for a license can be given by maintaining the safety measures.
- 10 years visa has been announced for 212 foreign doctors.

Kuwait:

6,918 individuals have returned to their homeland using the amnesty provided by Kuwait. Of these, 4,390 are from Egypt, 1,821 from the Philippines, 629 from Bangladesh, and 78 from Indonesia. Although the Kuwait government has made arrangements for the workers to return to their homeland at their expense, the government of the concerned country has assisted them in bringing back the workers.

Qatar :

Anyone going out without wearing a mask will be jailed and fined upto 2 lakh Riyal.

India has brought forward a package of hotels costing INR. 15,000 and 30,000 as two alternatives for the workers returning from foreign destinations to stay in quarantine for 14 days. This could be a good example for the Nepal government to bring Nepali workers from foreign destinations.

\$ Follow the Money



Total

Spent

Federal Government

The total expenditure of Nepal government's activities against Coronavirus

Around 1.5B NRS

The Ministry of Defence for the purchase of health equipment to prevent and control COVID-19 released

Around 2.34B NRS

Donors

ADB

60M USD

World Bank

28.7M USD

IMF

130.9M USD

European Union

82M USD

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 2.20B NRS

Province	Total Amount	Spent Amount	Remaining Amount
Province 1	Around 289M NRS	Around 159M NRS	Around 138M NRS
Province 2	610M NRS	177M NRS	433M NRS
Bagmati	400M NRS	223M 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.

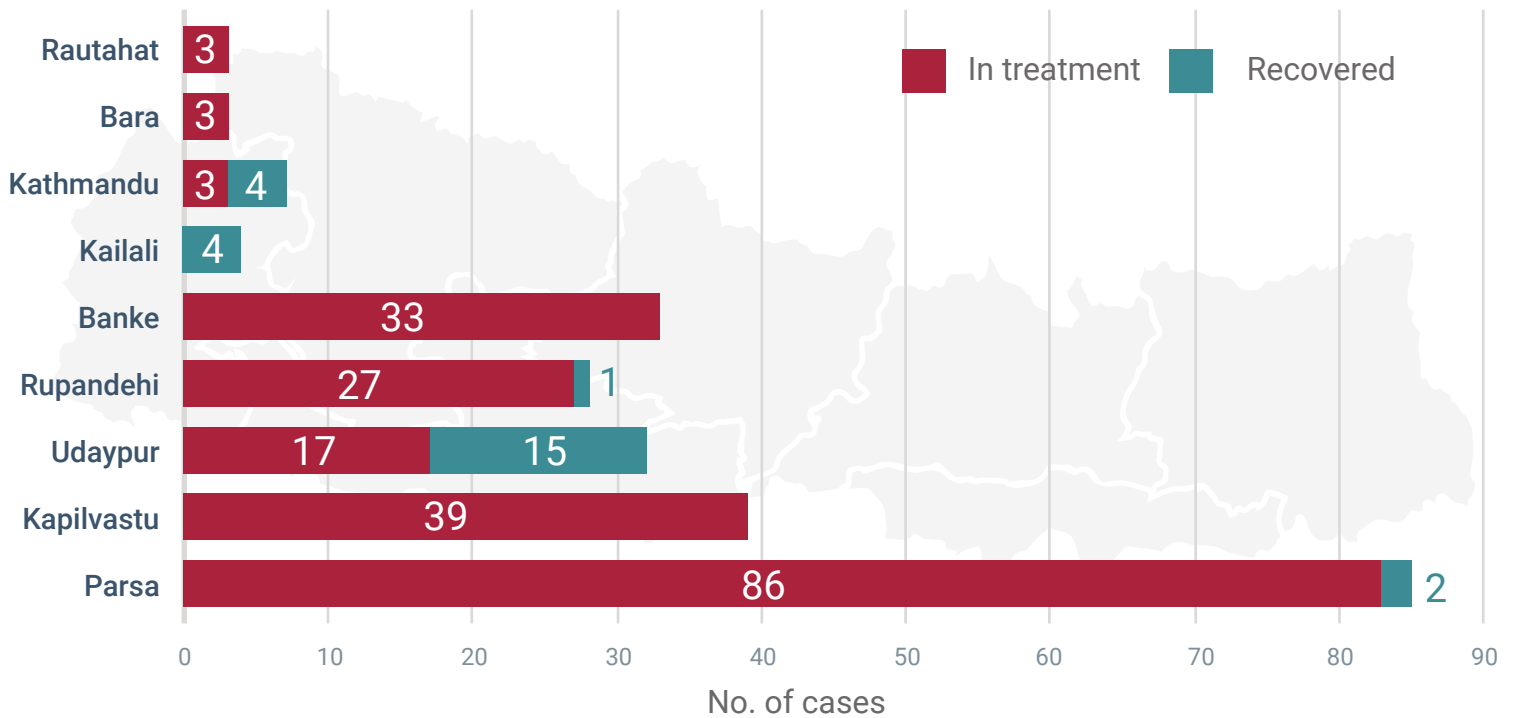
Accountability in COVID-19 Response

The government should always play the role of a guardian during the time of crisis. This is also a time for the government to make the citizens feel its presence. When the government loses its accountability towards citizens in crisis, the citizens lose their trust towards the government. We don't have to go very far to find an example, the situation after the 2072 earthquake is the concrete example of this fact. Moreover, the current situation is also not very different. The government and responsible body should pay attention to the following 10 points:



1. Make the details of the COVID-19 response expenditure public. For that, the current inactive human resource within government service can be used.
2. About 6 lakh Nepali alone are trying to return home from the Gulf countries. There is also a risk of infection from individuals coming from India. The long term solution for this is to increase the capacity of quarantine and safely bring back citizens from foreign destinations.
3. The procurement of health equipment should be done in a cost-effective manner by ensuring transparency and quality of the goods.
4. Essentially, arrangements should be made for the food and accommodation of those groups at high risk.
5. Supervision and monitoring should be intensified to prevent the irregularities in relief distribution.
6. The information system of the government should be more people-friendly and technology oriented.
7. The issues of human rights are likely to be shadowed during a crisis. Thus, the concerned agencies should play an active role.
8. Along with safety, the human resource in the frontline should be given proper motivation and respect.
9. Policy and ethics should be maintained at the implementation level.
10. Accountability should be enhanced in the coordinated work of local, provincial and federal government.

Districts with recorded community transmission of COVID-19 in Nepal



The above graph shows that nine districts in Nepal have recorded community transmission of COVID-19 so far. Among these, Kailali has been fully recovered even though the first community transmission case was found there. Community transmission is considered as the most risky wave of transmission, and often results in exponential growth of virus if measures like contact tracing are not effective. Contact tracing does not seem to be satisfactory in the case of Nepal and a larger attention is required to contain the virus.

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.

