

Nepal Coronavirus CivActs Campaign



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.



Foreign Employment and Remittance Inflow



The remittance inflow in the fiscal year 2075/76 was Rs. 879 billion whereas the inflow in the first 8 months of fiscal year 2076/77 was Rs. 592 billion. In the current situation, there is no possibility of an increase in remittance inflow. This can put pressure on the next year's GDP as well as foreign exchange reserves.

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Source: https://mof.gov.np/

Rumors & Facts



There is an ongoing fear that with the increase in the number of infected cases, the government has run out of resources and is unable to manage facilities including isolation wards and quarantine which would lead to an increase in transmission. The treasury steering committee of the Corona Prevention, Control and Treatment Fund of Nepal Government has made a decision and informed all the 7 provincial governments that the amount from the fund can be channeled if the province makes a request along with the required map, design and an estimated budget to establish a quarantine with 1000 bed capacity following the standard criteria and to build a temporary infrastructure for isolation wards anticipating the infection numbers or to renovate the existing infrastructure for the arrangement.

Source: https://www.opmcm.gov.np/



It is unlikely for the production from the existing industries alone to fulfill the demands. Nor does the transmission seem to stop anytime soon. What has the government planned on this? The government will make arrangements to provide permission to more industries within the control areas for operation with a condition that the movement of workers in their communities will be restricted and they should perform a corona test prior to their arrival at the workstation. Their travel to the workstation will be closely monitored by the administrative body. The concerned industries should regularly monitor whether or not the workers have followed the prescribed protocol and report it to the concerned administrative body. Based on the effectiveness of this process, the government plans to gradually take ahead the process of running more business.

Source: https://cutt.ly/1yDpMyr



We have heard that the government is bringing back the Nepalis staying in foreign destinations. Also, hotel arrangements for their accommodation are ready. The Corona Prevention and Control High level Coordinating Committee has held apreliminary discussion on arrangements for the arrival of Nepalis (workers, students, short-time visitors, professionals visiting for training and seminar or patients visiting for treatment) willing to return Nepal from India or any other country. The government is making preparations to bring back the citizens after proper management. But there is no official news from the government about already managing the hotels.

Source: https://www.opmcm.gov.np/wp-



Has all the examination programs for civil service been canceled for which the forms were filled but exams weren't taken?

The Nepal government has halted those advertised examination programs until the further notice for which the applications had been collected but exams were not conducted.

Source: http://psc.gov.np/

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

World Health Organization Ministry

Ministry of Health and Population

Do's and dont's Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center

<u>Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update, Ministry of Health and Population,</u> <u>Government of Nepal</u>

Nepal Labour Force Survey Report

COVID-19 Situation

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Open Migration

Migrant workers in major destination countries



Shramik<mark>Sanjal</mark>

The preparations made by UAE and Saudi Arabia to ease lockdown

UAE

Now that Ramadan is over, some of the rules have changed. Cinema halls have been reopened with new rules such as online ticketing limited to 305 audience.

The earlier rules of allowing 305 workers in office have been changed to 505 and arrangements are being made to extend it up to 1005 by June 15. Similarly, the preparations have been made to completely reopen the government offices from June 15. Gradually, the lives are getting back to normal.

Saudi Arabia

The provinces except Mecca where a 24 hour lockdown has been imposed will be open from 6 Am to 3 Pm from 28 May to 30 May. But the entertainment spaces including clubs and cinema halls will remain closed.

From 31 May to 20 June, the movements will be open in the areas except Mecca from 6 Am to 8 Pm where restaurants and cafes will be permitted to open but the spaces for entertainment purposes such as clubs and cinema halls won't be permitted.

The plan is to open all the sectors from 21 June and take everything back to normal as it was before the lockdown.

\$ Follow the Money

Total 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 2.26B NRS			ADB 250M USD World Bank 28.7M USD IMF 130.9M USD European Union 82M USD		Spent The total expenditure of Nepal government's activities against Coronavirus Around 1.8B NRS The Ministry of Defence for the purchase of health equipment to prevent and control COVID-19 released Around 2.34B NRS		
			vincial	Govern			
Province	Province	Province	Bagmati	Gandaki	Province	Karnali	Sudurpaschim
Names	1	2	Province	Province	5	Province	Province
Total	Around	Around	Around	Around	Around	Around	Around
Amount	293M NRS	610M NRS	400M NRS	150M NRS	236M NRS	500M NRS	402M NRS
Spent	Around	Around	Around	Around	Around	Around	Around
Amount	178M NRS	177M NRS	123M NRS	920M NRS	136M NRS	132M NRS	201M NRS

Average budget allocation in local units, the occupancy rates in quarentine and ative cases in each provinces



Occupancy rate in quarentine facilities

The graph shows that Province 2 has the highest number of cases occupancy rates, and and therefore requires high attention by the local government. But, immediate actions are to be taken in Bagmati, Gandaki and Sudurpaschim provinces. Compared to the low number of these areas. cases in the occupancy rates in quarantine is already high and if/when there is a surge in the number of cases, the guarantine facilities will overflow. The local governments in these provinces need to start taking proactive action and use their resources in building more quarantine spaces.

The analysis is based on allocation by provincial governments to local level units although each local governments have also allocated funds from their internal sources. So the total allocation might be different than presented above.

Note: Our objective is to help everyone be informed about the positive work that the government is doing and the budget it has allocated. This will lead to discussions among citizens and other relevantstakeholders to provide feedback to the government. The information presented here is not complete. We will keep revising it as we get additional data. We request everyone to support us in this process.



Narainapur Rural Municipality in Banke



According to the current statistics, the Narainapur Rural Municipality of Banke is the local level with the highest number of infectants. The following are the reasons which justifies this area is at a high risk of outbreak at present:

- 1. The number of individuals entering the area on a daily basis is still high.
- Due to lack of awareness, the locals protest while taking the infectant to quarantine even after results are verified.
- 3. The infectant return to the community escaping the quarantine.
- 4. Lack of enough isolation bed for the infectants.
- 5. The quarantine facilities are not managed as per the guidelines of the government.

Risk Management

The Narainapur Rural Municipality has recently written a letter to the District Administration Office and other bodies requesting for help. As the municipality itself doesn't have isolation, the infectants are taken to Cancer Hospital in Khajura, Dental Hospital in Nepalgunj and Agriculture Training Center in Kohalpur Pipari. The area has been sealed since Jestha 11 until further notice due to increment in the number of infectants and lack of support from the locals. The Army, Police and APF have been mobilized to monitor the area. But for a long-term solution, it is important to raise awareness among people alongside managing quarantine facilities and make proper infrastructure arrangements to establish Lakshmanpur Health Center as an isolation to keep the infectants.





Age wise distribution of COVID-19 cases

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The above graph shows the distribution of COVID-19 cases according to age group in Nepal. Majority of the cases belong to the youth and adult age group. The data has two implications. One, since migrant workers fall under the aforementioned age-group, they are still the most vulnerable. A large number of migrant workers will arrive in days to come and the COVID-19 situation in Nepal will largely be dependent on how we manage them and integrate securely to the communities. Two, community transmission, shown by data of young population and old age group, is prevalent. We need strong measures to combat community transmission like effective contact tracing, rapid and reliable testing and robust health delivery system.

Source: HEOC, MoHP, SitRep

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The sources of rumors, information, and issues presented here are collected from a variety of organizations, government agencies, international organizations, news articles, social media, and Community Frontliners in all 7 provinces of Nepal, as well as the CivActs team based on their conversations with over 2000 people in May 2020. The issues highlighted are chosen based on prevalence, relevance, and its potential impact on society. The information presented here is correct at the time of the issue.

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



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