

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.

Incidents of disaster occurred across the country in a week due to heavy rainfall



If we see in terms of human casualties, then the number of deaths from floods and landslides in a week is much higher than the number of deaths from COVID -19 in four months. The flood and landslide occur and repeat every year. The accidents could be reduced if the risk areas are identified in a timely manner and the settlements are managed.

Source: <http://drportal.gov.np/uploads/document/1566.pdf>

Nepal Update



A crowd of service seekers standing in a line without following the security standards of Covid-19 at the Dhangadhi-based transport office in Kailali.

Photo: Ganga Bhandari

Tested

PCR Tested: 3,03,810

Positive: 17,344

Active: 6,056

Deaths: 39

NEPAL

Source: <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>

Rumors & Facts



Should a private hospital pay a separate fee of Rs. 2000 for health workers and other staff involved in the treatment of COVID-19 patients?

As per the previously issued "Guideline on Management of Health Workers and Other Personnel Involved in the Treatment of COVID-19 Patients, 2077", the government has decided to provide Rs. 2000 person per day for quality and hygienic food, sanitation and accommodation of such health workers and personnels. This provision will apply only to government hospitals. In case of private hospitals, the amount is considered to be included in the cost proposed by the government. No additional charges should be paid for this.

Source: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Les4fw4GvPvqrrX8_eFlo1qNJoTKDt7u/view



It is heard that during the time of pandemic, many health and relief items have been purchased without due process. Won't it encourage corruption during the disaster?

When purchasing any material, the procurement act should be followed and the materials should be purchased in a cost-effective way. However, the situation of human risk shouldn't be created during a crisis in the process of abiding by laws and being economical. In cases like these, although a separate procedure as decided by the authorized officer could be followed, it isn't considered justified to follow such a procedure for a long time. Therefore, it is taken as a risk area of audit. However, there is a separate assessment system for this.

Source: <https://oagnep.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Disaster-Mgmt-Audit-Guide-72.04.18.pdf>



It is heard that the government is removing all the health workers/staffs employed on the contract basis for corona treatment due to lack of budget. Now the situation will be more difficult for the patient.

The Ministry of Health and Population has decided to give continuity to the health workers, doctors and nurses and other staff who are working on the contract basis on the laboratory and front desk from this fiscal year till the Poush of next fiscal year. However, it is also said that the contract of such employees would be extended only by ensuring the required budget.

Source: <https://mohp.gov.np/attachments/article/611/Upload%20in%20Website%20.pdf>



It is heard that now the local government is providing employment to the unemployed individuals.

The notice has been issued for those who want to be listed in the employment of minimum 100 days in coordination with the local employment center which also includes those who were on the list of relief recipients during lockdown. For this, the application should be submitted from 8 Shrawan to 7 Bhadra 2077. The local level will proceed with the listing process in the same manner as the application of the individuals who had applied to the Employment Service Center as per the rules till 10 Chaitra 2076.


Source: <https://www.mofaga.gov.np/uploads/notices/Notices-20200715164147792.pdf>

To receive our regular updates through WhatsApp

1. Add +27 60 080 6146 to your contact list.
2. Send a message saying **Nepal** to the contact.



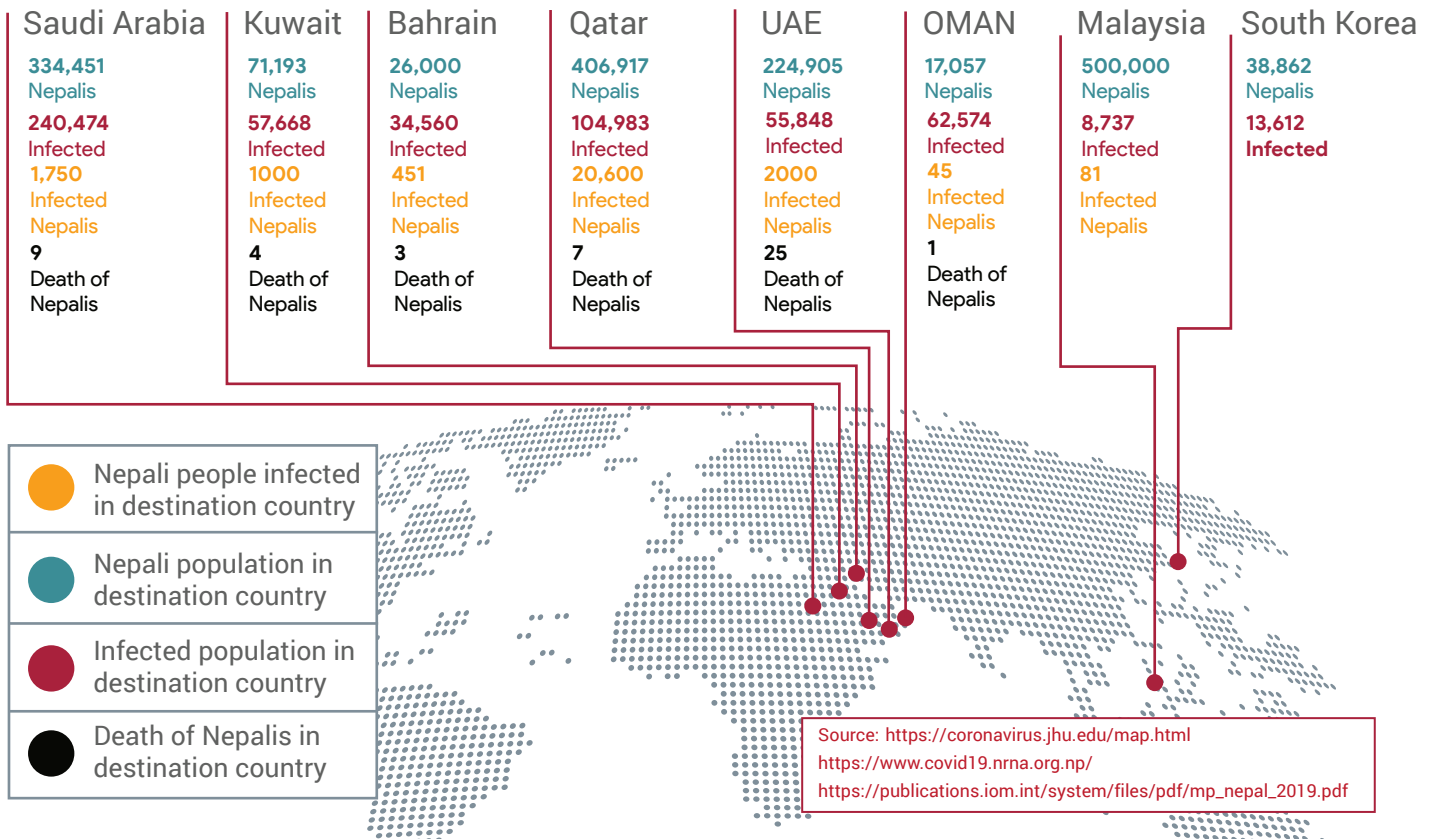
Toll-free **HOTLINE** on
COVID-19

Brought to you by  **viamo**

DIAL 32100
from your NTC simcard for accessing
all COVID-19 information for FREE

Open Migration

Migrant workers in major destination countries

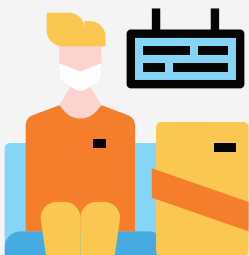


ShramikSanjal

Provision relating Visa changes in UAE - Since when will there be a penalty for renewal?

If you have residency visa (passport visa)

- If your visa expired between 1st March to the end of April, you can renew it now (to make it effective from 12 July). You will be fined from 12 October 2020.
- If your visa expired between 1st June to the end of June, you can renew your visa from 18 August. You will be fined from 10 November.
- If your visa expired between 1 July to 11 July, you can renew your visa from 10 September. You will be fined from 10 December.



If you have visit or tourist visa

If you have a visit or tourist visa, you only have time until 12 August. You will be fined after that. You will either have to leave the country or obtain an employment visa until 12 August. If you want to obtain an employment visa, then you should soon begin the procedure.

\$ Follow the Money

Total

Federal Government

Spent

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

Donors

ADB
250M USD
World Bank
28.7M USD
IMF
130.9M USD
European Union
82M USD

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

Provincial Government

Province Names	Province 1	Province 2	Bagmati Province	Gandaki Province	Province 5	Karnali Province	Sudurpaschim Province
Total Amount	Around 294M NRS	Around 266M NRS	Around 429M NRS	Around 183M NRS	Around 156M NRS	Around 254M NRS	Around 425M NRS
Spent Amount	Around 193M NRS	Around 133M NRS	Around 136M NRS	Around 154M NRS	Around 779M NRS	Around 239M NRS	Around 364M NRS

Budget allocation to local level units in Province 5



Rs. 6,000,000

Allocation to District Coordination Committee for Monitoring



Rs. 73,000,000

73 Rural Municipalities



Rs. 48,500,000

32 Municipalities



Rs. 8,500,000

4 Sub-metropolitan City

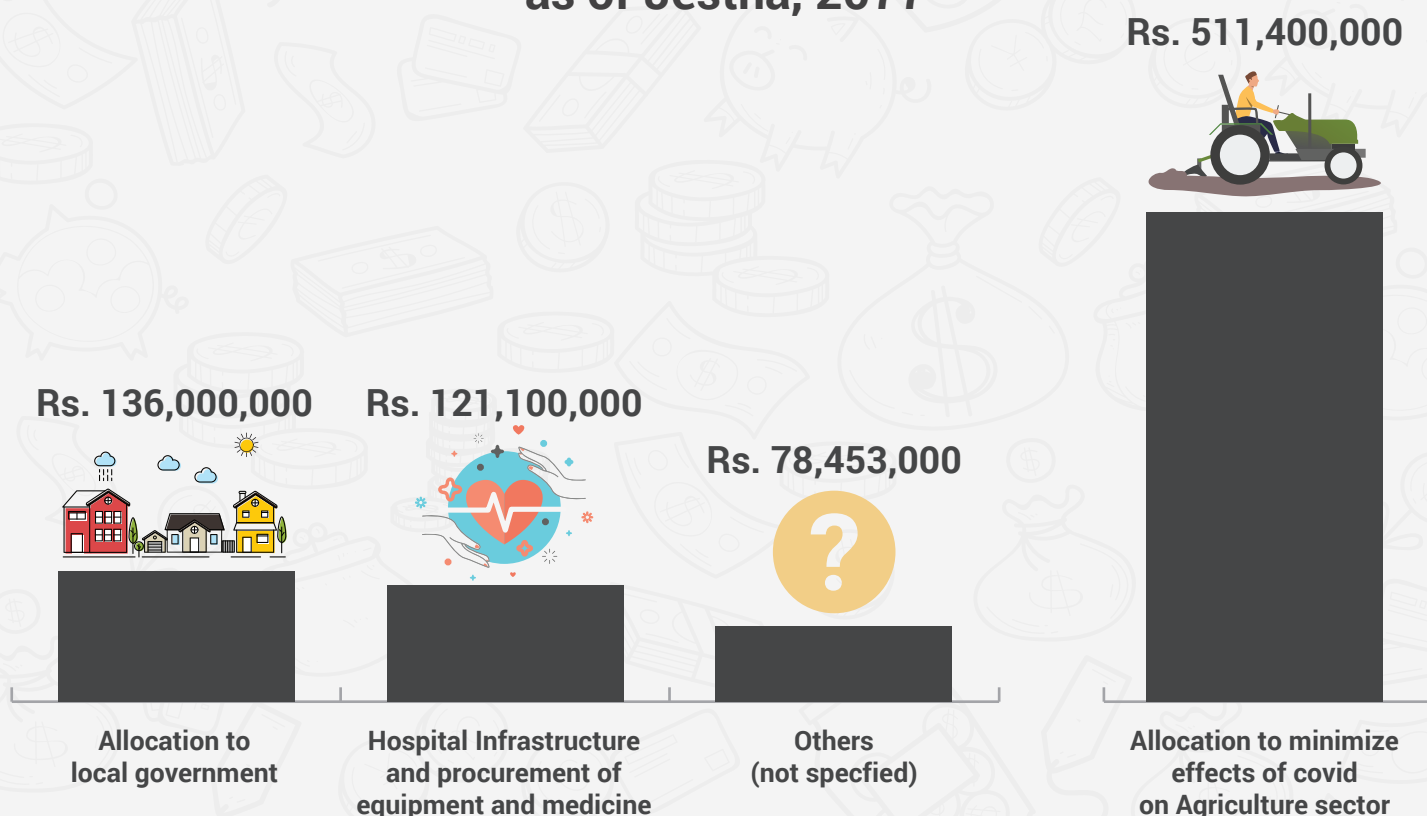


Rs. 136,000,000

Total Allocation to local level units

\$ Follow the Money

Expenses made on Corona response by the Province 5 as of Jestha, 2077



Province 5 is one of the most affected provinces from the Coronavirus. As of Jestha 2077, the provincial government has spent more than 335 million NRS on COVID related activities while over 511 million NRS has been allocated to minimize the effects of the pandemic on the Agriculture sector. It is a good thing that the government is allocating a budget to ensure livelihood through agriculture in Nepal doesn't diminish, but a detail on the said allocation could not be gathered.

A large sum of money (136 million NRS) has been distributed to the local level units, primarily for the management of quarantine facilities and isolation services. Building health infrastructure and procurement of equipment and medicine have taken another 121.1 million NRS. Over 78 million NRS of expense have not been specified yet.

The Province government has not provided any information about the expenses through the District Corona Crisis Management Centers. Most of the activities related to the movement of people across the border, transfer of people from quarantine to isolation centers etc. were carried out at the initiation by the Corona Crisis Management Center and therefore, it is necessary to make these expenses transparent.

*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.*

Is COVID-19 introducing a reverse globalization?

COVID-19 has in some way introduced us to the vulnerabilities of globalization. It has shown the effects of the growing cross-border flows of people, goods and energy which has been a defining feature of the modern world. Climate change, terrorism and nuclear proliferation were already considered the results of globalization. And now with coronavirus, it has been observed how an infection borne out of a local area can quickly expand and turn into a pandemic.

The COVID-19 is anticipated to make lasting impacts in the course of globalization. From inter-country relations and their economic behaviors to public opinion, all the milestones achieved by globalization so far are likely to alter. Some of the impacts of COVID-19 on globalization are:

1. Economic Protectionism



The disruption of global supply chains, interdependence and rapid economic slow-down has drawn countries to panic. There has been a rapid increase in countries and leaders advocating for economic nationalism and protectionism. The terms like self-sufficiency, localisation and economic security have come out as buzzwords. Many countries are searching ways to increase local productivity and reshape their trade and import behaviors. European Union, Switzerland, and India recently restricted the supply of medical equipment to other countries during the pandemic.

The lack of reliance on healthcare has also given a reality check for the countries to also look upon other sectors. The post-lockdown could be an era where many countries modify their trade and FDI policies and introduce regulatory institutions to prevent the foreign companies from gaining major leverage.

2. International Travel Ban and Tourism

A number of countries adopted travel bans as a preventive measure to COVID-19. With airports empty and bans being enforced, the airline companies are bearing heavy loss and even going bankrupt. As per the data suggested by OAG (global travel data provider) that it would take until 2022 to 2023 for the number of flights to return to what it was before the corona situation. Also, because the corona has introduced the companies to new ways of working through digital platforms, the work-oriented travels are likely to decrease for a long time.

Moreover, the heavy economic loss might hugely reduce international tourism. The tourism industry which is already facing a lot of difficulties due to travel bans could bear loss post-COVID as well.



3. Labor Migration



The travel bans and restrictions of the governments have caused a huge impact on the labor migrants. Similarly, the lack of coordination between the home and employer country, lack of proper government response and difficulties in repatriation has shown the downside of the labor migration during the crisis situation. However, the impacts to labor migration aren't here for a short time.

The labor migration might be hard-hit post-COVID for other reasons as well such as the shutdown of large-scale industries, economic recession in the countries, priority of workers in local employment and many more. In the case of Nepal, the World Bank has predicted that the remittance for this year could reduce by 14%. Other South Asian and Developing countries relying on labor migration are also certain to face the same plight.



Frontliner's Voices



Birmala Devi Budhthapa

Deputy Mayor

Sanfebagar Municipality

"The biggest lesson that coronavirus has taught me is that the local level also needs to stay prepared with enough resources for the unexpected crisis. Although the immediate problem seems to be the management of migrants coming from Indian borders, we need to stay prepared for the

situation that may arise from food security and hunger in days ahead. One of the local representatives has confirmed corona positive, but we cannot run away from the responsibilities because of that."

Biplav Adhikari

Doctor

Kageshwori Manohara Municipality Hospital

"We were having our lunch at the usual time when the first positive case was tested in the hospital. When someone from the hospital came to us with the information, one of the staff started laughing hysterically and everyone else became restless. But since we had anticipated and prepared for it with protocols, we could smoothly move ahead. So far, along with the four individuals who stayed in our quarantine, eight individuals have tested positive."



Sita Kumari Sharma

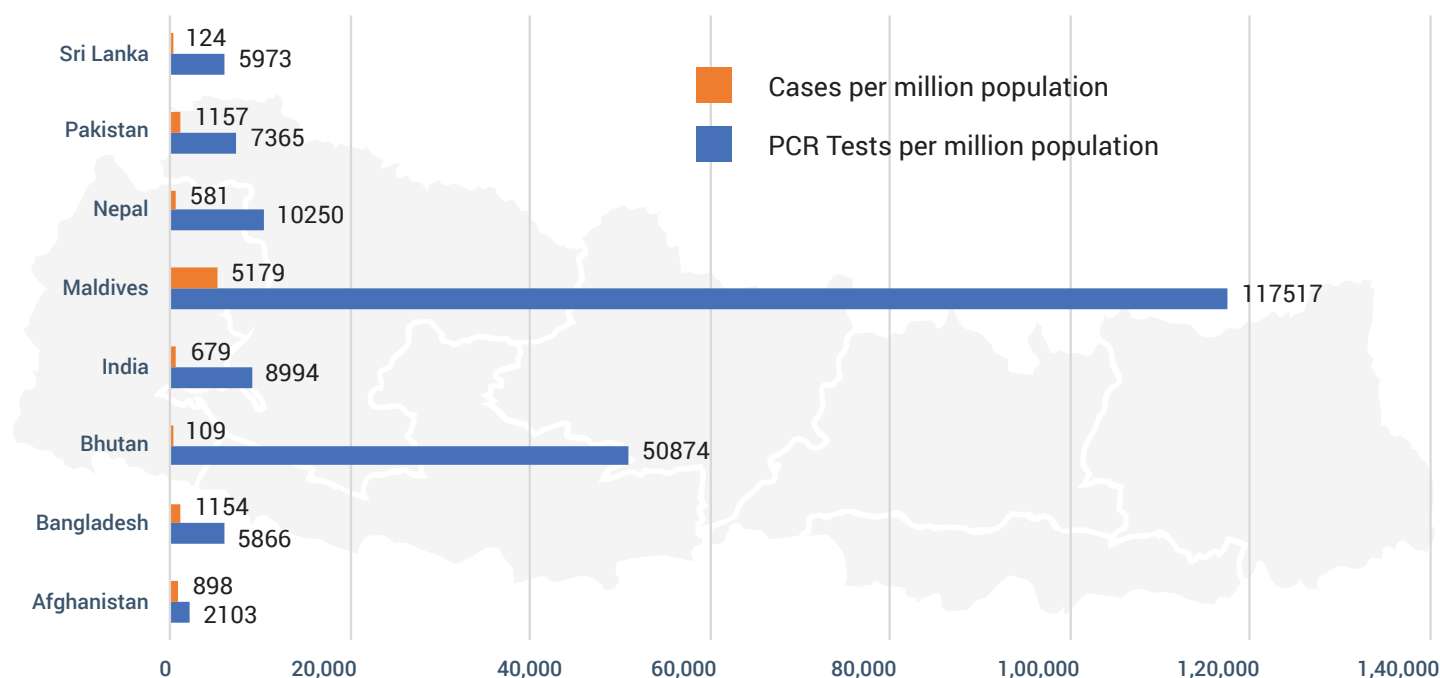
Health Worker

Surkhet

"The coworker I was working with has been tested positive for coronavirus. So, my sample has also been collected for testing. Until the results come out, I am not infected and have to stay on home quarantine. However, the community that I had been informing and alerting are excluding me today. I am only a representative character, most of the health workers have similar experience. In this situation, one can imagine what is the level of motivation for the health workers who work day and night. "



Cases And Tests Per Million In South Asia



The above graph shows the total number of positive cases and PCR tests performed per million population in South Asia regarding COVID-19. It can be seen that Nepal performed the third highest number of tests per million population while the total number of positive cases per million population is the lowest after Bhutan and Sri Lanka. Despite many challenges we have experienced in the past four months with limited testing kits and border issues, Nepal's effort towards controlling the spread of COVID-19 is moderate. But, there are still areas where the control of coronavirus can be improved, which would improve Nepal's situation a lot more.

Source: HEOC, MoHP, SitRep

DISCLAIMER

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 July 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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