

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.

Important decisions made by Council of Ministers regarding lockdown on 5 Shrawan 2077

Lockdown is open from the mid-night of 6 Shrawan 2077

The other arrangements made for the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 will be maintained as it was, and all the border entry points will remain closed until 32 Shrawan 2077.

Facilities to be operational from 15 Shrawan

Business related to tourism such as trekking, travel, mountaineering, hotels restaurants (Social gathering, party, seminar or any other gatherings that involve crowds is not allowed)

Facilities to be operational from 1 Bhadra

- Short, medium and long distance public transport
- Domestic and International flights
- International sports trainings and early stage games
- Student admission, academic and other examinations

Facilities to be operational from the date specified by next notice

School, college, tuition center, training center, gathering, conference, training, seminar, excursion, gathering and , cinema hall, party palace, dance bar, salon, beauty parlor, spa, swimming pool, gym, health club, all kinds of religious and social sites, library, museum and zoo.

Source: <https://mocit.gov.np/categorydetail/cabinet-2077-04-05>

Nepal Update



A pregnant woman is being rescued with the help of Kanchhalal Jimba, the village head of Gokule in Mahabharat Rural Municipality of Kavrepalanchowk

Photo: Keshav Raj Paudel

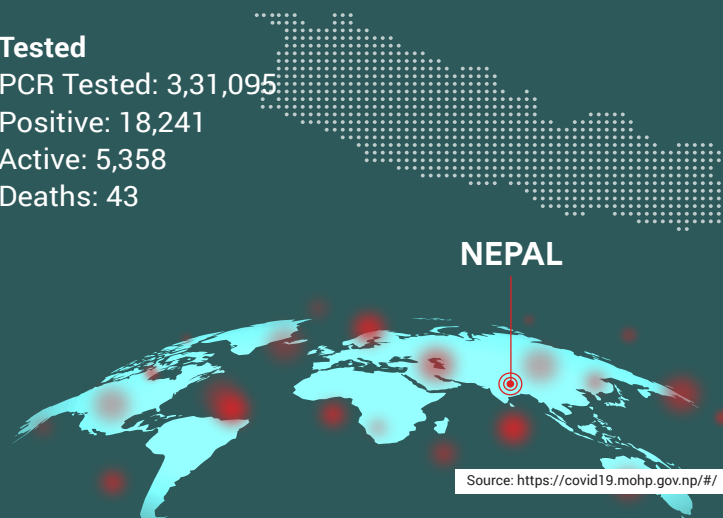
Tested

PCR Tested: 3,31,095

Positive: 18,241

Active: 5,358

Deaths: 43



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

Rumors & Facts



It is heard that the local units are themselves sending the workers to Korea.

After learning that some local units are sending for employment through direct contact and understanding with various government and non-government bodies of the Korean government, the Ministry of Labor and Employment has requested to not entertain such actions. According to the agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Republic of Korea on sending workers to Korea, Nepali workers can be sent only through EPS. Similarly, it is also possible to obtain an individual labor permit from the Department of Foreign Employment as per the "E-7 Visa" issued by Korean Government. Any work excluding this would be against the Foreign Employment Act, 2064 and Foreign Employment Regulations, 2064.

Source: <https://www.mofaga.gov.np/uploads/notices/Notices-20200720155256453.pdf>



The government has said that the individuals returning from abroad would be allowed to stay in home quarantine. But what about those who do not meet the criteria to stay in home quarantine?

If an individual returning to Nepal from abroad requests to stay in home quarantine by following the prescribed criteria, he/she would be sent to home quarantine with the agreement and direct supervision of the concerned local body. But if any individual cannot stay in home quarantine as per the prescribed criteria, it would be the responsibility of the local government to make arrangements for his/her stay in the public quarantine established by Nepal government.

Source: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W34BbBTqr1g7Hwzut5JhuwtjZLkKAXHp/view>



More than corona, the flood and landslide is causing harm to wealth. What is the provision of relief for such individuals and families?

In case of the loss of house and shelter, food crops, land or shop business due to the disaster, the family with upto 5 members will be provided Nrs. 15, 000 and the family with more than 5 members would be provided Nrs. 20,000 as far as possible by the government as immediate relief on the spot of the disaster. Similarly, if any one member of the family dies in the disaster Nrs. 20,000 and if more than one member of the same family lost their lives then additional Nrs. 1 Lakh would be provided by the government as a relief amount. But if all the members of the family die then it is also said that the relief amount wouldn't be provided.

Source: <https://www.moha.gov.np/post/press-release-2032>



The government has banned the classes in schools and colleges. However, it is also heard that the colleges would be resuming. What is the reality?

Excluding the regular classes, operation of library and other activities prohibited by Nepal government, the administrative and other works are allowed to be resumed. In order to conduct these regular activities, the health safety guidelines issued by the government must be followed. Although the teachers were given public holiday during the lockdown period, it has been stated that the holiday has ended as soon as the lockdown is over. Which means these teachers and employees would be involved in preparation for examinations and other activities since Bhadra 1.


Source: <https://cutt.ly/za8YF47>

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.



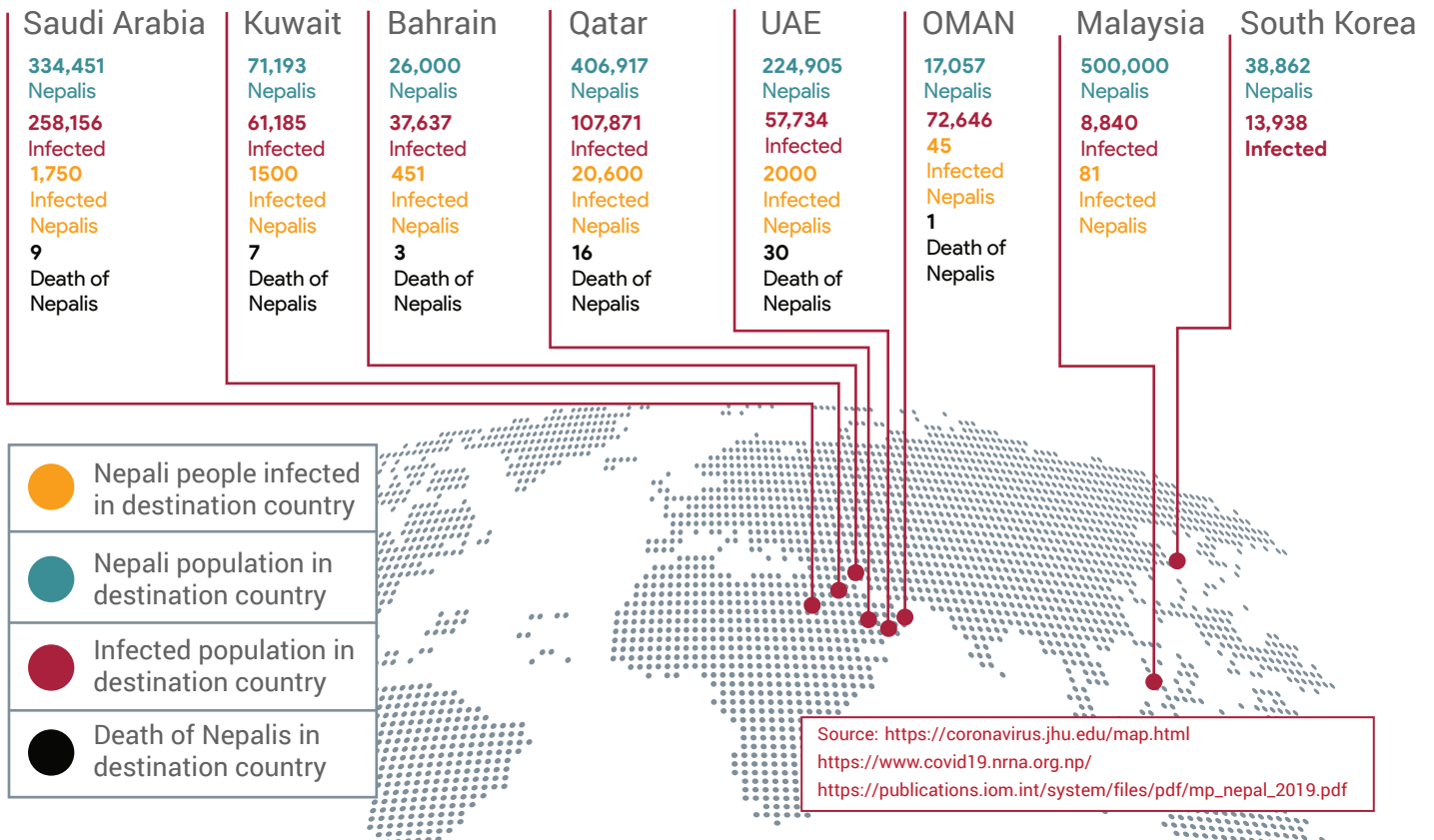
Toll-free **HOTLINE** on
COVID-19

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

Rules targeting foreign workers changing in Gulf Countries as the situation improves

International flights are scheduled to start from August 1 in Nepal

Qatar

It is said that Qatar has come up with a list of 40 low risk countries to allow the foreign workers. Nepal isn't mentioned in the list. After Nepal is included in this list which is updated every two weeks, it would be possible to go to Qatar from Nepal. In the current situation, you need to obtain an entry permit before going to Qatar. It is also important to have a PCR Report of less than 48 hours.

UAE

Those with UAE visas and are out of the UAE should fill the GDRFA ICA form while returning to UAE. Similarly, when filling up the GDRFA form, while earlier the resident visa and passport copy was necessary, you now also need a no-objection certificate from the company and the self declaration letter. If you have a free zone visa, then you also need a document proving free zone.

Kuwait

Those who are out of Kuwait and have expired visas should apply for a new visa if they have to return to Kuwait. It is said that this rule would directly affect 40,000 migrant workers. Kuwait has announced that it will open for the citizens outside the country from 1 August.

\$ 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

Federal Government

Donors

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

Spent

The total expenditure of Nepal government's activities against Coronavirus

Around 1.8B NRS

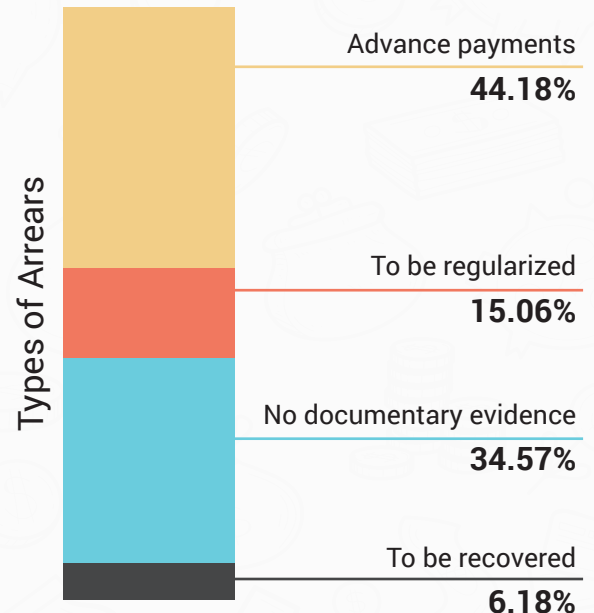
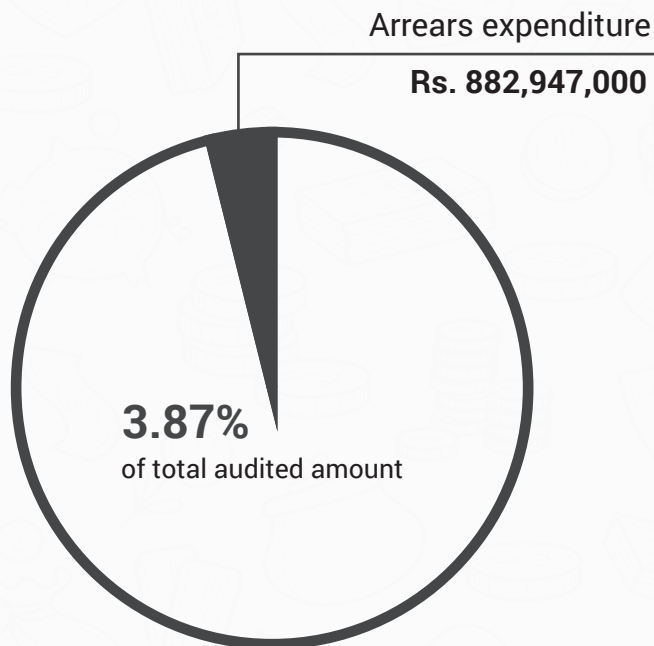
The Ministry of Defence for the purchase of health equipment to prevent and control COVID-19 released

Around 2.34B NRS

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 |

Arrears status of Sudurpaschim Province in Fiscal Year 2075/2076



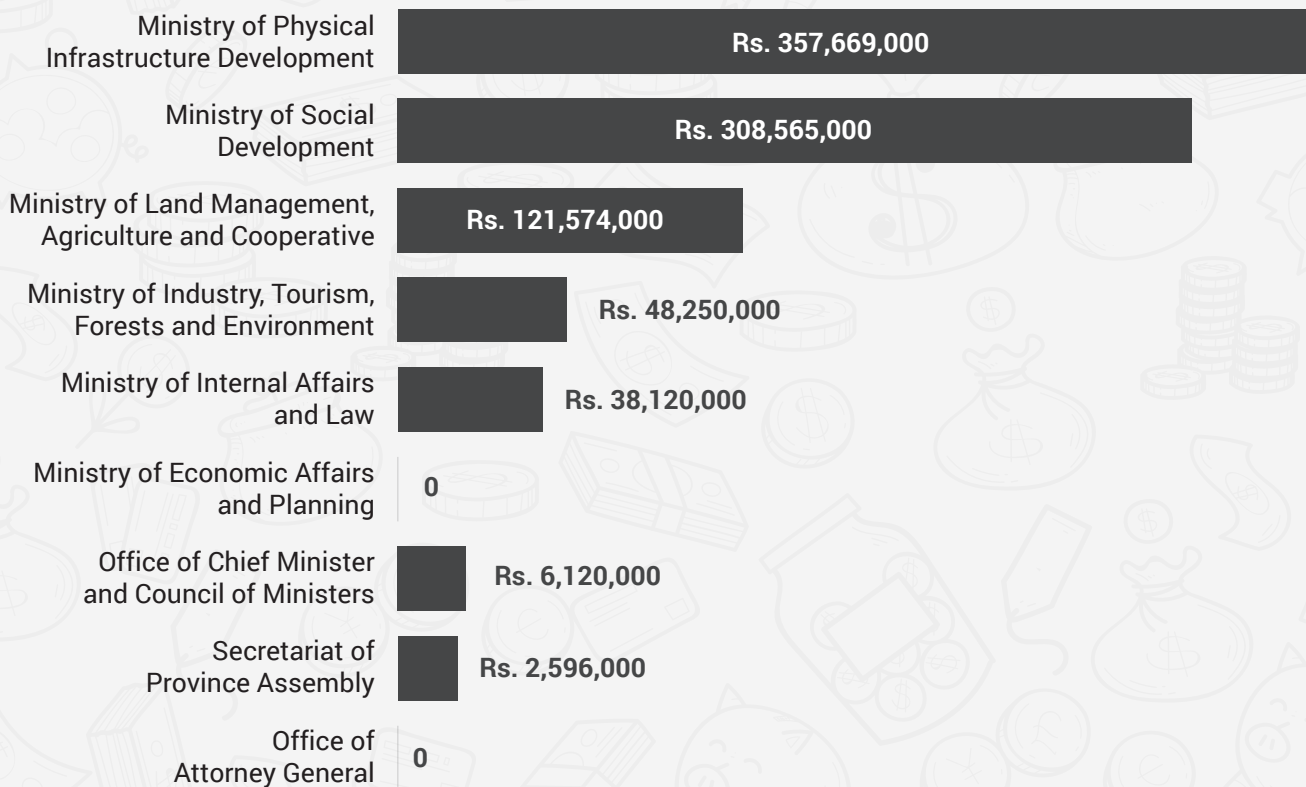
TOTAL AUDITED AMOUNT
22.8 BILLION NRS

TOTAL AGENCIES AUDITED
127

AGENCIES WITH ARREARS
70

\$ Follow the Money

Comparison of ministries and their Arrears expenditure of Sudurpaschim Province in fiscal year 2075/2076



Sudurpaschim Province has an arrear amount of around 883 million NRS, which is 3.87% of its total audited amount. Almost 56% of its agencies (70 out of 127) have arrears which is quite high. Similar to the federal government, Sudurpaschim province also has very high advance payments (44%) while almost 35% of all arrears occurred because no documentary evidence or supplementary information could not be produced. Spending without proper documentation pertains to unethical practices within an agency and actions to prevent them should be taken immediately.

It is a point of some encouragement that the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning, and the Office of Attorney General have no arrears. However, high arrears in other ministries paint a displeasing picture. The ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development and the ministry of Social Development and share around 75% of all the arrears which is a matter of serious concern. These ministries, not only have a huge budget outlay but, are also responsible for the development needs of the province. So, arrears in these ministries deprive much needed funds in priority areas. Further, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, and Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative also demonstrate high amounts of arrears raising the concern over the quality of public security and agricultural development in Sudurpaschim Province.

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.

Impact of low remittances in the South Asian States due to COVID-19

South Asia receives 22% of global remittances which amounts to US\$122.4 billion previous year. It suggests that the South Asian countries' economies have become hugely vulnerable due to the pandemic. A huge drop in the remittances flow has hard-hit the economies of these countries. Economic shocks in the migrant host-countries due to pandemic have affected the remittance recipient countries.

Remittance has played an important role in alleviating poverty, uplifting the lives of people and reducing child labor in South Asia. A substantial number of workers from this region travel to Gulf countries. The World Bank has projected 22.1% decline of the remittance in South Asia.

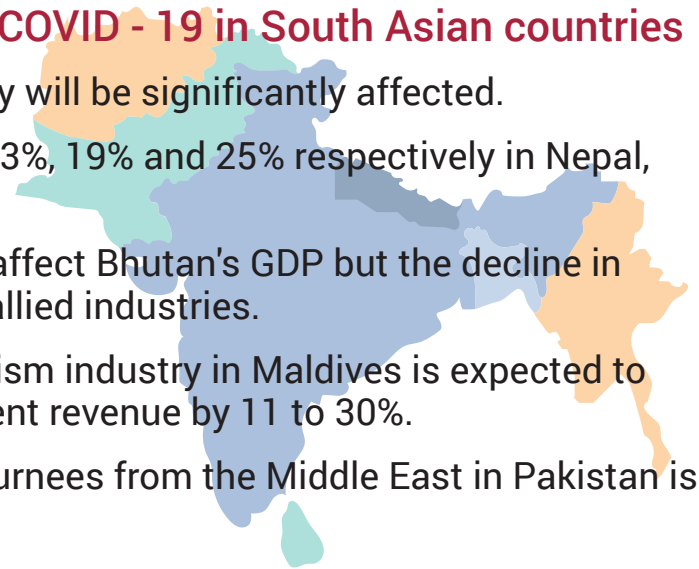


The current economic recession has limited the capital inflow in the South Asian countries, but more than this, the impact of COVID-19 on remittances has directly affected people's capacity to afford food, healthcare, and basic needs. FAO has predicted millions to starve from hunger. Similarly, UNICEF's report suggests that millions of children would suffer from malnutrition. Thus, the effect on remittances inflow in the region not only have affected the economy of the country but also the livelihood of South Asian families.

The remittance is more important than ever to South Asian countries now as there has also been a steep fall in the FDI. Thus, a low inflow of remittances in South Asia has hugely affected the economy of the countries in the region.

The impact made by remittance due to COVID - 19 in South Asian countries

- Afghanistan, a war-torn country's economy will be significantly affected.
- The inflow of remittance will fall by 14%, 23%, 19% and 25% respectively in Nepal, India, Srilanka and Bangladesh.
- A low-dependency in remittance will less affect Bhutan's GDP but the decline in inflow of capital will impact tourism and allied industries.
- The hit in the sole dependency of the tourism industry in Maldives is expected to cause a decline in the country's government revenue by 11 to 30%.
- The rise in unemployment of migrants returnees from the Middle East in Pakistan is likely to increase homelessness.



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Frontliner's Voices



Dr. K. N. Poudel

COVID-19 Focal Person

Karnali Provincial Hospital

“For two months since the COVID-19 was observed in Nepal, not a single case was seen in Karnali. After the number of people entering Karnali region from Nepal increased in unexpected rate, the rate of infection also increased accordingly. The mortality rate was also high. Health workers were scared. In such a case, they should have been motivated and convinced for the

treatment. At the same time, I myself became infected with Corona. But our objective was to make the province's health service a model. There is a feeling in us that we have been working in Karnali for a long time and during this difficult situation, we should work with more seriousness. Now the situation is gradually returning to normal, but we are still in a state of readiness. We are preparing, keeping in view what we should do if thousands of patients with pneumonia come to us in a single day like in Europe or the United States.”

Jevananda Pandey

Health Assistant

Babai Health Desk, Surkhet

“Babai Health Desk is situated in the main entrance to Karnali Province. Where I worked for four months. Initially, there was no good support from the local and police administration. When we stayed in the quarantine, we suffered there as well. Although our responsibilities were challenging, the responsibilities continued to motivate us to work. Our contract has ended since the end of Ashad. Now all the health desks are closed.

The government had said it would provide additional incentives for those who worked hard even by putting their lives at risk, but we didn't get the incentive. It has made us a little upset.”



Mohanmaya Dhakal

Deputy-Chief

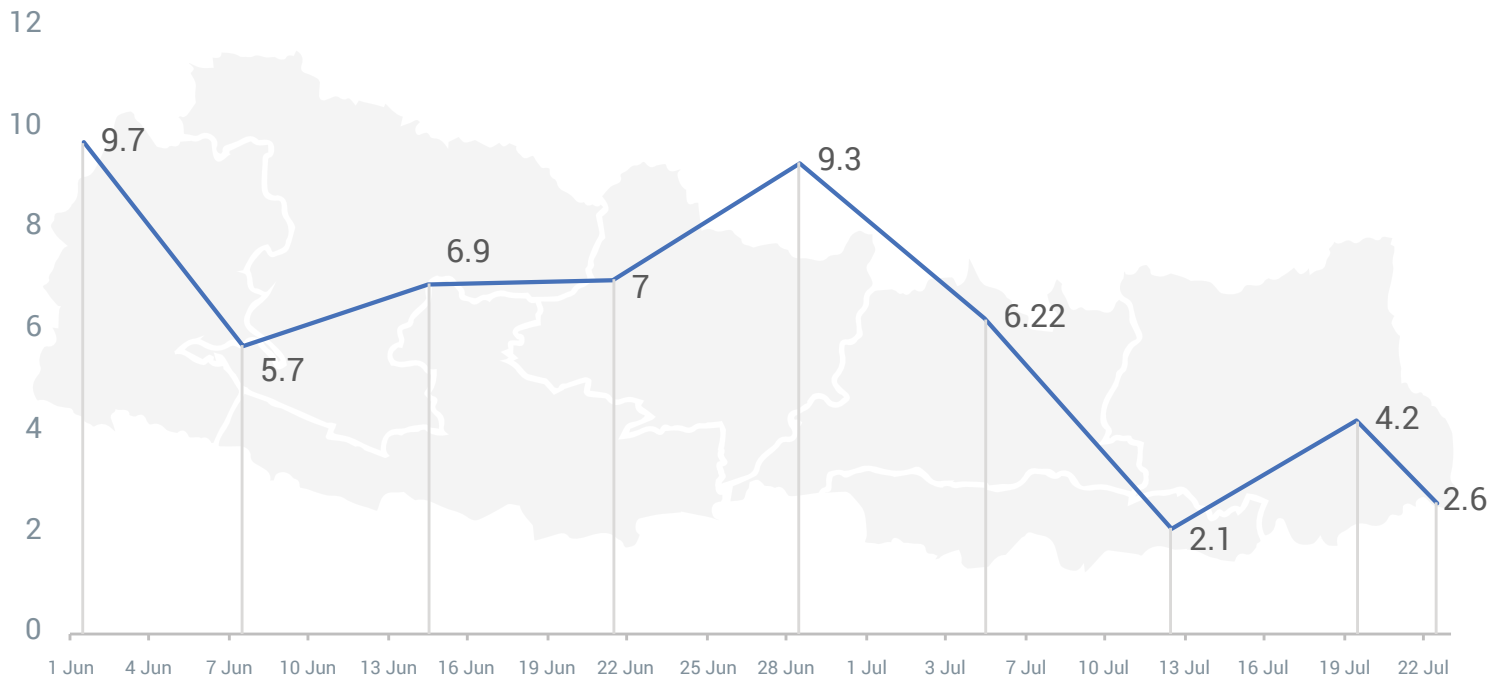
Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet

“It was difficult for us to manage the quarantine when people started coming from abroad. The people of the community would request not to set up a quarantine in the school near my settlement. Even after corona was observed in the settlement, we convinced them about the need of the quarantine and were successful in establishing one. When we would go to the quarantine, the returnees

used to say “home is indeed the final truth in times of great pandemic and crisis”. It made us more responsible in managing them.”



Percentage of positive COVID-19 cases out of the total number of tests

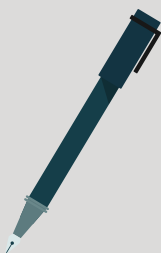


The above graph shows the percentage of positive COVID-19 cases out of total PCR tests conducted in Nepal on a weekly basis since June 2020. It shows that the ratio of confirmed cases has been decreasing recently. This positive indicator shows that the spread of COVID-19 is slowly decreasing in Nepal. However, concerns over low volume of tests and ineffective contact-tracing indicate that there is ample room for improvement in the response.

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.



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