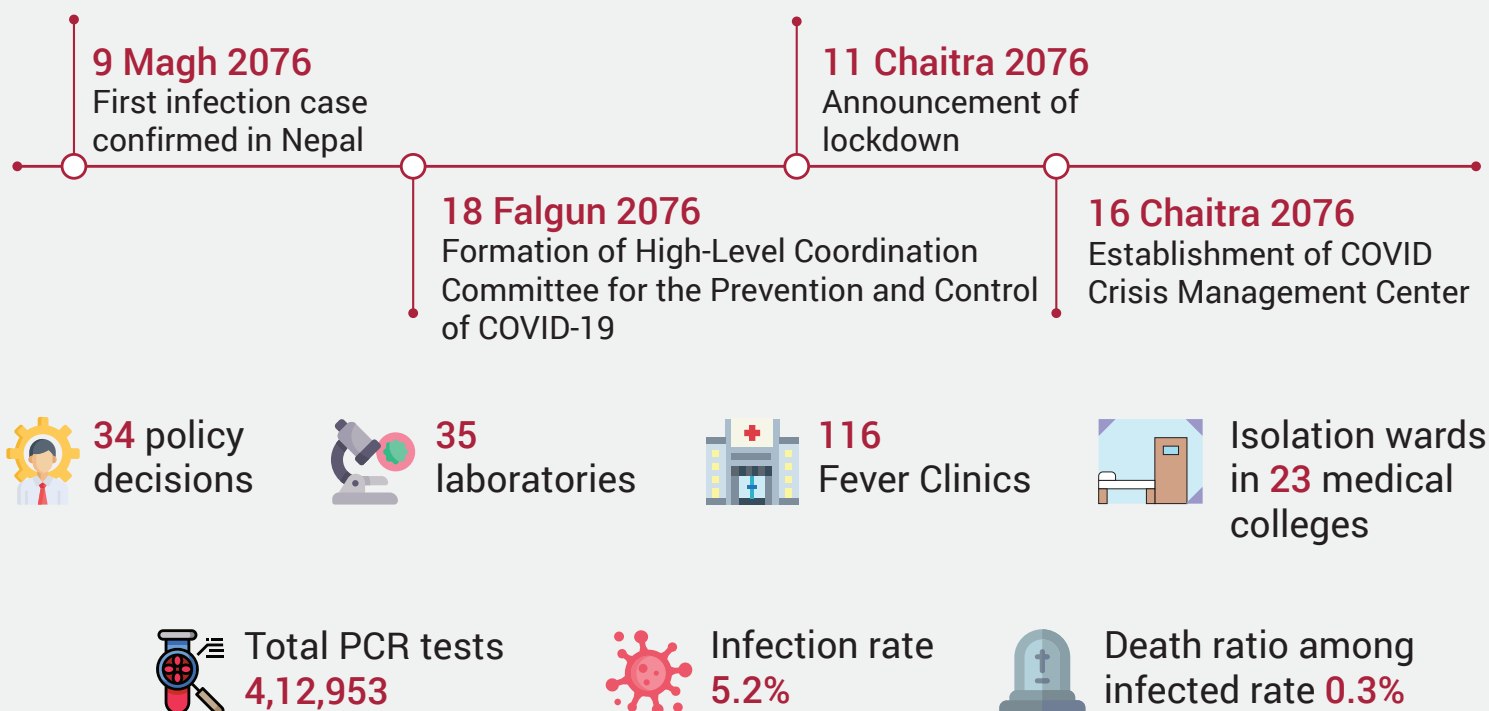


The **Coronavirus CivActs Campaign (CCC)** gathers rumours, concerns and questions from communities across Nepal to eliminate information gaps between the government, media, NGOs and citizens. By providing the public with facts, the CCC ensures a better understanding of needs regarding the coronavirus and debunks rumours before they can do more harm.

COVID-19 prevention and control efforts in Nepal and the current situation



स्रोत: <https://cutt.ly/4dhBPDJ>

Nepal Update



Tested
PCR Tested: 412,953
Positive: 21,390
Active: 6,174
Deaths: 60



Rumors & Facts



The government says that it will implement an odd-even system for transportation. In some locations, there is a lockdown, in some locations there is curfew. What does this imply, we aren't being able to

or Kathmandu valley and other districts with more than 200 active infected cases of COVID-19, it has been said that private and public vehicles will be operated on the basis of odd-even numbers except for emergency services. However, in districts or areas with a high risk of infection, the COVID Crisis Management Center, with the support of the administration, can immediately announce lockdown or curfew. Accordingly, lockdown, closure, and curfews has been issued in some locations.

Source: <https://www.moha.gov.np/post/pa-ra-sa-va-ja-niapa-ta-122>



We have heard the news that there will again be a lockdown in Karnali Province. Is this true?

The Chief Minister of Karnali province spoke about lockdown organizing a press conference in Surkhet on 20 Shrawan 2077. He declared during the conference that even if a single corona case with symptoms is seen in Karnali, then the provincial government will impose a province-wide lockdown. Similarly, he also requested all the Karnali residents to completely follow the safety measures to prevent from COVID -19.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3198810536900256>



Has the travel passes been closed for urgent travels outside Kathmandu?

As the risk of COVID -19 infection is likely to increase in crowded spaces, it has been decided that the applications for the travel pass will be collected a day before and pass will be distributed only after 8 AM the next day. This decision will be implemented from 21/4/2077 unless another arrangement is made. Those who need the pass are requested to submit the application in the gate of the District Administration Office and receive the pass from the same place the next day. The District Administration Office, Kathmandu is issuing passes only for long-distance travel.

Source: <https://daokathmandu.moha.gov.np/public/upload/1402a3666bab255e6a3f07937faf522f/files/suchana1.pdf>



It is heard that a lot of private-sector employees have lost their jobs. Has the data on this been recorded? How will the government provide employment to those who have become unemployed in this situation?

According to a survey conducted by Nepal Rastra Bank, industries and businesses are found to have cut 22.5 percent of their staff and workers. However, this is not a final figure. The same survey has also shown that the hotel and restaurant sector has cut the majority of its workers. The government has already announced that the youths who have become unemployed due to such reasons will be involved in the "Youth Employment Transformation Initiative Project".


Source: <https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/08/Survey-Report-onCOVID-Impact-Final.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.



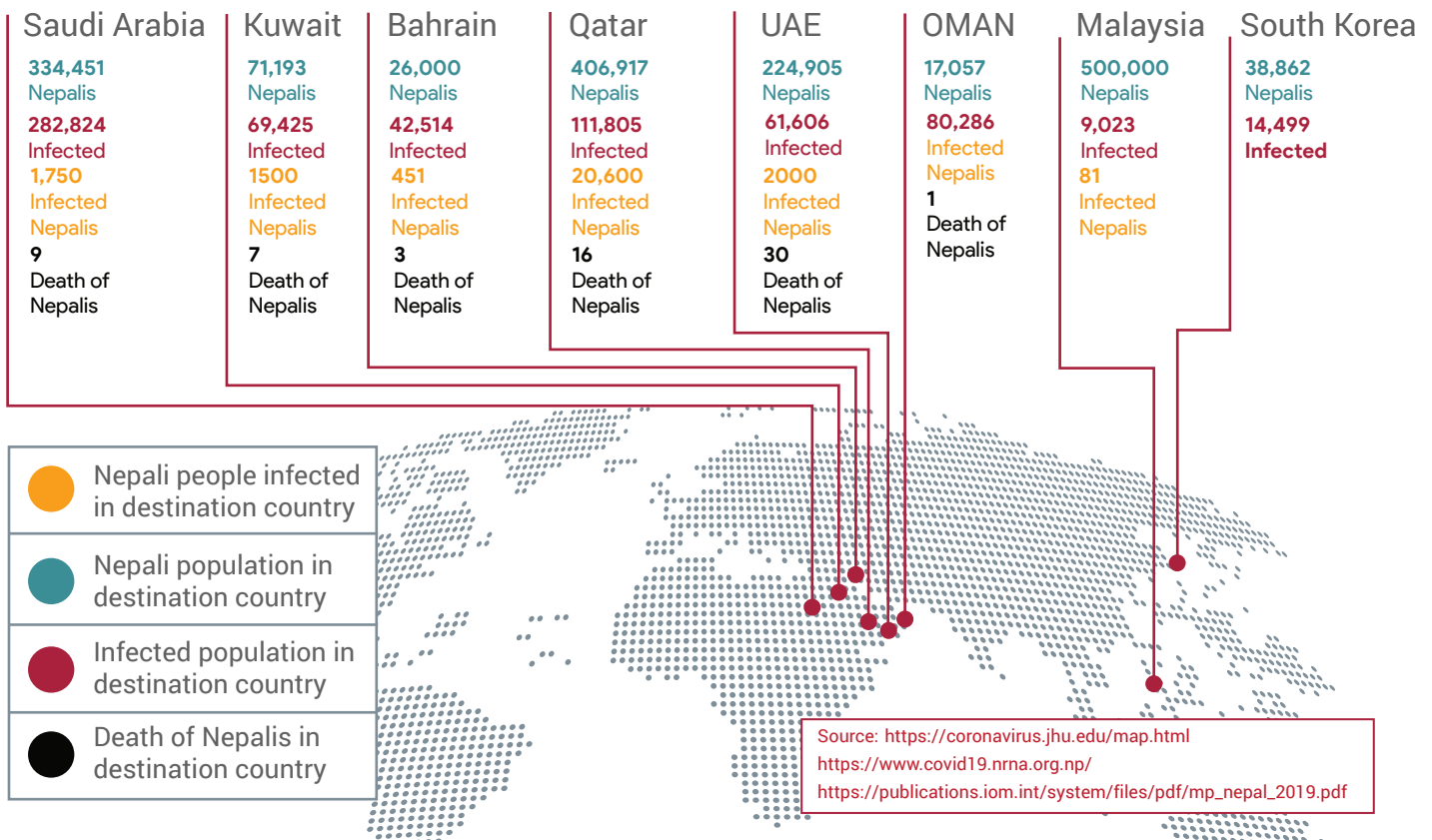
Toll-free **HOTLINE** on
COVID-19

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

Three important notices of the week

Nepal

The individuals returning to Nepal from abroad should go to www.ccmc.gov.np and fill up an online form. Similarly, those going abroad from Nepal should also go to the same website and fill up the Health Declaration Form.

Qatar

Four more flights have been scheduled for Doha - Kathmandu. Nepal Airlines: 9 and 10 August, Himalayan Airlines: 8 and 9 August. The list of the names of individuals who can get tickets are uploaded on the Facebook page of both the Embassy as well as Shramik Sanjal.

UAE

Although the indoor/outdoor investment was said to be closed until December this year, it is in the process of resuming due to the decreasing impact of coronavirus infection. In the same context, Al Ain Zoo has been open from 6 August.

\$ 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

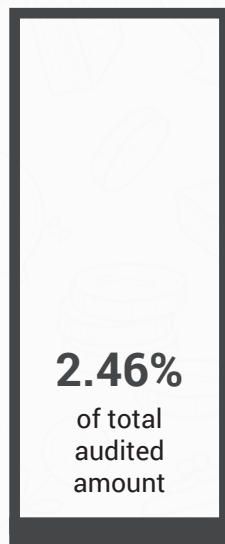
The Ministry of Defence for the purchase of health equipment to prevent and control COVID-19 released

Around 2.34B NRS

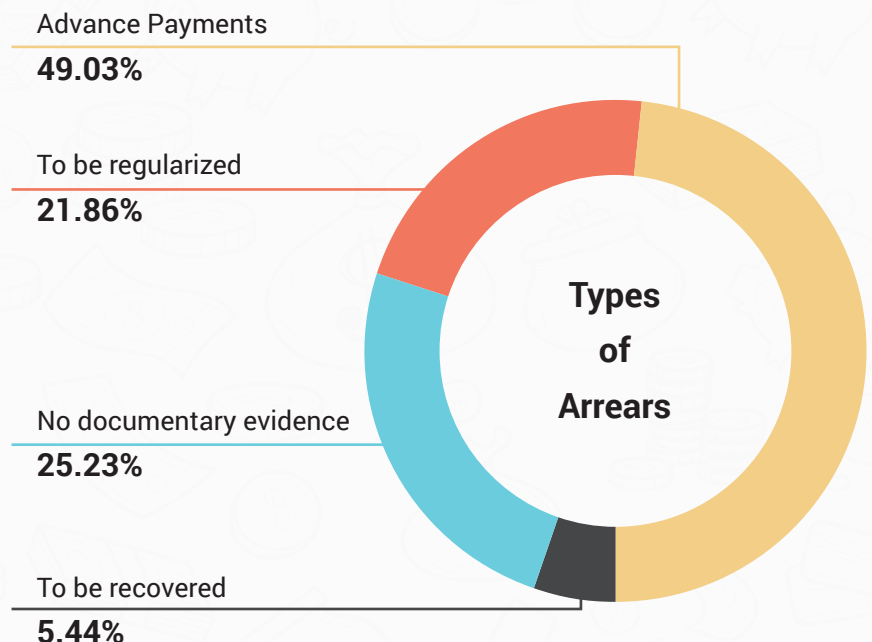
Provincial Government

| 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 |

Arrears status of Bagmati Province in Fiscal Year 2075/2076



Arrears expenditure
Rs. 972,094,000



TOTAL AUDITED AMOUNT
39.5 BILLION NRS

TOTAL AGENCIES AUDITED
191

AGENCIES WITH ARREARS
114

\$ Follow the Money

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

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development | Rs. 561,377,000 |
| Ministry of Social Development | Rs. 183,132,000 |
| Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative | Rs. 135,514,000 |
| Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment | Rs. 91,095,000 |
| Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law | Rs. 159,000 |
| Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning | Rs. 786,000 |
| Office of Chief Minister and Council of Ministers | 0 |
| Secretariat of Province Assembly | 0 |
| Office of Attorney General | Rs. 31,000 |
| Province Planning Commission | 0 |

Bagmati Province has an arrear amount of over 972 million NRS, which is 2.46% of its total audited amount. The arrears percentage to the total audited amount (39.5 billion NRS) is the lowest in Bagmati compared to other provinces in past Issues. Almost 60% of its agencies (114 out of 191) have arrears. In Bagmati Province, around 49% of all arrears occurred due to advance payments. This province also has a moderately high percentage of arrears that need to be regularized (21.86%) and that are missing documentary evidence (25.23%).

Similar to other provinces, the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development has the highest amount of arrears. The Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative also have high arrears. These ministries not only have a huge budget outlay but also deal directly with the concerns of the public. Most of the development needs of Bagmati province are scattered through these ministries. So arrears in these ministries deprive much needed funds in priority areas. Also, all ministries that have development functions have spent more on contingency rather than allocation for programs. This could have been prevented by implementing proper expertise initially and by breaking down big projects into smaller budgets to avoid public procurement processes and perform transactions through direct procurement.

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.



Frontliner's Voices



Shankhar Babu Adhikari

Chair, District Health Office, Tanahu

"The quarantines had been set up in all the ten local units of Tanahu to safely keep the individuals who have returned from abroad. The District Health Office had managed 26 ambulances and 1000 bed-capacity quarantine for the prevention of corona. Currently, the work of removing old quarantines from school and setting them in public buildings, and sanitizing the old quarantine and isolations is underway. Although the risk of corona seems to have reduced to some extent, there is fear that the situation could go out of control due to public negligence".

Pabitra Devi Poudel

Deputy-Chair, District Coordination Committee, Tanahu

"During the lockdown, the District Coordination Committee kept the local units functioning and brought them together in the fight against corona. All ten local units of Tanahu have succeeded in conveying that message that they have worked together in corona response to rescue the people with disabilities and rehabilitate those who have come from abroad in the communities. However, most of the markets in Tanahu which were reopened after a 120-day lockdown haven't operated in a safe manner. So, it is very important to follow the safety standards. Alongside this, it is equally important to enhance the economy by using local products.



Purna Singh Thapa

Chair, Bandipur Rural Municipality, Tanahu

"In the first phase, the rural municipality distributed food relief to the individuals affected due to corona. In the second phase, we coordinated with the Prime Minister's Self Employment Program and launched a labor-based relief program. We employed 300 individuals inside the rural municipality to dig a 9 Kilometer bicycle land, dig the roads canals and plant trees along the road. As a result, we were able to provide employment to the daily wage workers as a relief. Due to the shrink in the business due to COVID-19, the rural municipality now aims to take forward agriculture and tourism together."

Economic impact of COVID-19 in Nepal

The onslaught of COVID-19 has abruptly cast a dark shadow of uncertainty through a concerted health and economic crisis playing out synchronously in Nepal. Efforts to 'flatten the curve' through lockdowns have triggered a 'macroeconomic recession curve' by restricting the flow of goods, capital and labor, and through losses of jobs and income along with defaults and bankruptcies.

Three salient characteristics leaves Nepal further vulnerable.

- i) Heavy reliance on external receipts. With international travel restrictions and fall in discretionary disposable incomes worldwide, tourist arrival is expected to shrink globally by 80%. Additionally, so is remittance by 20%.
- ii) High concentration of small and medium enterprise: Representing 99% of enterprises, SMEs have low cash-to-asset ratio and struggle to remain afloat during difficult times.
- iii) Large share of informal workers: 84% of all workers are in informal employment, majority of whom are not protected by social security schemes (such as unemployment benefits).



Vulnerable groups such as women and informal workers are hit harder.

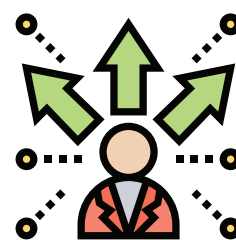
While permanent workers, who are backed by strong labor laws, face less job cuts, 60% of the workers from SMEs lost their jobs in the first few weeks of lockdown.

Women are hit harder by the pandemic as they typically work in industries which are comparatively less tele-commutable such as hospitality and retail. Similarly, increased responsibility at home due to closure of schools affects working mothers.

Way forward

The government needs to be mindful of three major economic shifts engendered by the pandemic.

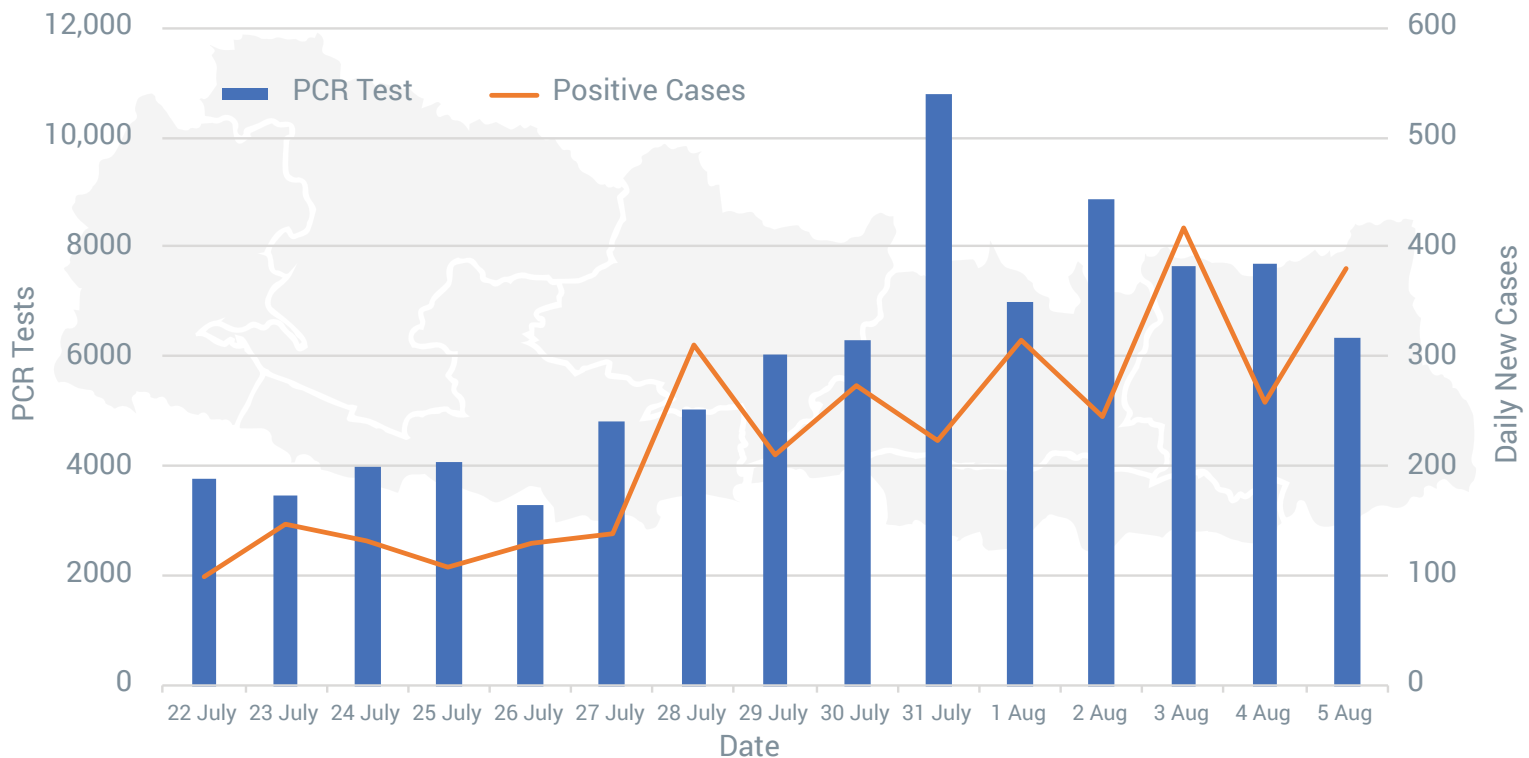
- i) Fall in cross-border flows: Some countries (such as the USA, India) have started looking inwards by restricting supply of essential goods and relocating production back home. Nepal can take advantage of this vacuum by liberalizing its restrictive FDI policies and encouraging cross-border trade and investment.
- ii) Shrinking tourism: Global tourism is not likely to return to normal in the following months. However, Nepal can try to carve safe corridors or 'bubbles' where groups of countries that have tamed the spread of coronavirus would be allowed to travel only among themselves as tourists or even temporary migrants.
- iii) Adoption of technologies: The pandemic has prompted adoption of digital and low-touch services such as food delivery, online payment, online learning among others. This seems to be an ideal time for Nepal to leapfrog into digitization across households, businesses and government.



- **Abyaya Neopane**, Economist, Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS) -

Inefficiency in managing the pandemic

Daily number of PCR tests and positive cases after Lockdown was lifted in Nepal



The above graph compares the daily PCR tests conducted after the lockdown was lifted with daily positive cases. While the number of daily tests have almost doubled in this period, which is good, the daily positive cases have increased by more than three times. This is a clear indication that there has been rapid growth in the number of COVID-19 in Nepal after the lockdown was lifted. The government failed to manage the proper way to manage the pandemic after months of preparation and is now forced to introduce new restrictions.

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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