

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.

## Massive staff cuts after lockdown

According to the survey of Nepal Rastra Bank, the situation of job cuts based on the categorization of the industrial sector



Hotel and restaurant  
**40.08%**



Electricity, gas  
and water  
**39.71%**



Wholesale and  
retail business  
**24.86%**



Construction  
**23.6%**



Manufacturing  
industry  
**23.49%**



Agriculture, forestry  
and fisheries  
**21.35%**



Media  
**21.31%**



Transportation  
and storage  
**18.75%**



Real estate, rental and  
business activities  
**18.75%**



Mining and  
excavation  
**16.67 %**



Health and social  
work  
**15%**



Education  
**5.60%**



Other sectors  
**24.90%**

**National average :  
22.50%**

70.59% of the job cut is of temporary and contract based employees.

Source: <https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/>

## Nepal Update



A health worker collecting swab for corona testing from an official of Byas Municipality.

Photo: Sailendra Mishra

### Tested

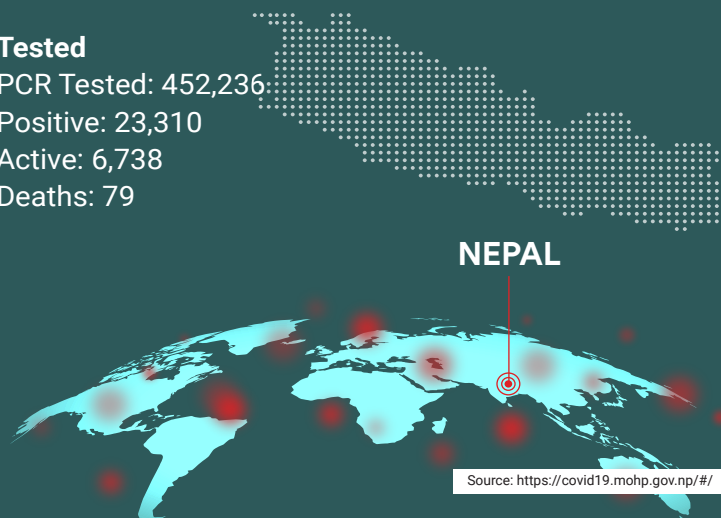
PCR Tested: 452,236

Positive: 23,310

Active: 6,738

Deaths: 79

**NEPAL**



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

# Rumors & Facts



It is heard that the infection has been observed in departmental stores as well. People are afraid that the negligence of management there can invite a worse situation.

It has been said that the arrangements should be made for customers to use masks, measure temperature and use sanitizer before entering the departmental stores, sales centers and retail shops. Similarly, it has also been said that shopkeepers should use sanitizer each time they take money from a customer and cater to another customer. If the shops are found not following the criteria, anyone can inform the nearest administration or the concerned local unit.

Source: <http://moics.gov.np/uploads/shares/criteria/>



It is heard that the government has brought a new rule to not allow the elderly and children to celebrate the festivals.

Considering the risk of COVID-19 that may occur due to festivals, the government has asked the individuals belonging to the risk group to not participate in gatherings that are attended by people other than their families. Such risk groups include people above age of 60 and children below age of 12. Similarly, people with fever, cough and respiratory problems, pregnant and lactating women, people with chronic diseases, those who have had organ transplant, who have medical equipment in their body and who recently have had the surgery also fall in the risk groups.

Source: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/17ali-HL\\_kiUEX0I4Q-MLJwgOhCEz77di/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/17ali-HL_kiUEX0I4Q-MLJwgOhCEz77di/view)



It is said that the government provides education scholarships to the children of those who died or became disable in the course of foreign employment, but that is not enough to pay the fees of even a month or two. Also, those studying in college do not get it.

The scholarships are available only to the children of those workers who went to foreign employment by obtaining a labor permit and died or became disable or sick in the course of foreign employment and received hundred percent financial assistance from the Foreign Employment Board. For this, the children should be below 18 years of age studying upto class 12 in community or institutional schools. Those who meet the criteria will receive Rs. 8000 for primary level and Rs. 12,000 for secondary level annually in lump sum as scholarship from the Foreign Employment Board. The application for the foreign employment scholarship has been opened for this academic session. Click the link below for detailed information.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=368318290799018&set=a.111383046492545>



The hospitals do not agree to admit COVID - 19 patients. They have started asking patients to stay in home isolation. Is that the capacity of the hospital? Won't the individuals infected now have access to health care?

In order to keep the hospitals safe for COVID -19 patients with severe symptoms, the government has made arrangements to keep the infected individuals under 60 years of age with no symptoms or other physical illness in home isolation under the supervision of local health workers. There are about 2600 ICU beds and 900 ventilators in the country. Of these, 250 ICU beds have been added for the treatment of COVID-19, and the process of adding another 240 ICU beds is underway.


Source: <https://www.facebook.com/mohpnep/videos/1419676331754798>

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**regular updates**  
through WhatsApp

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



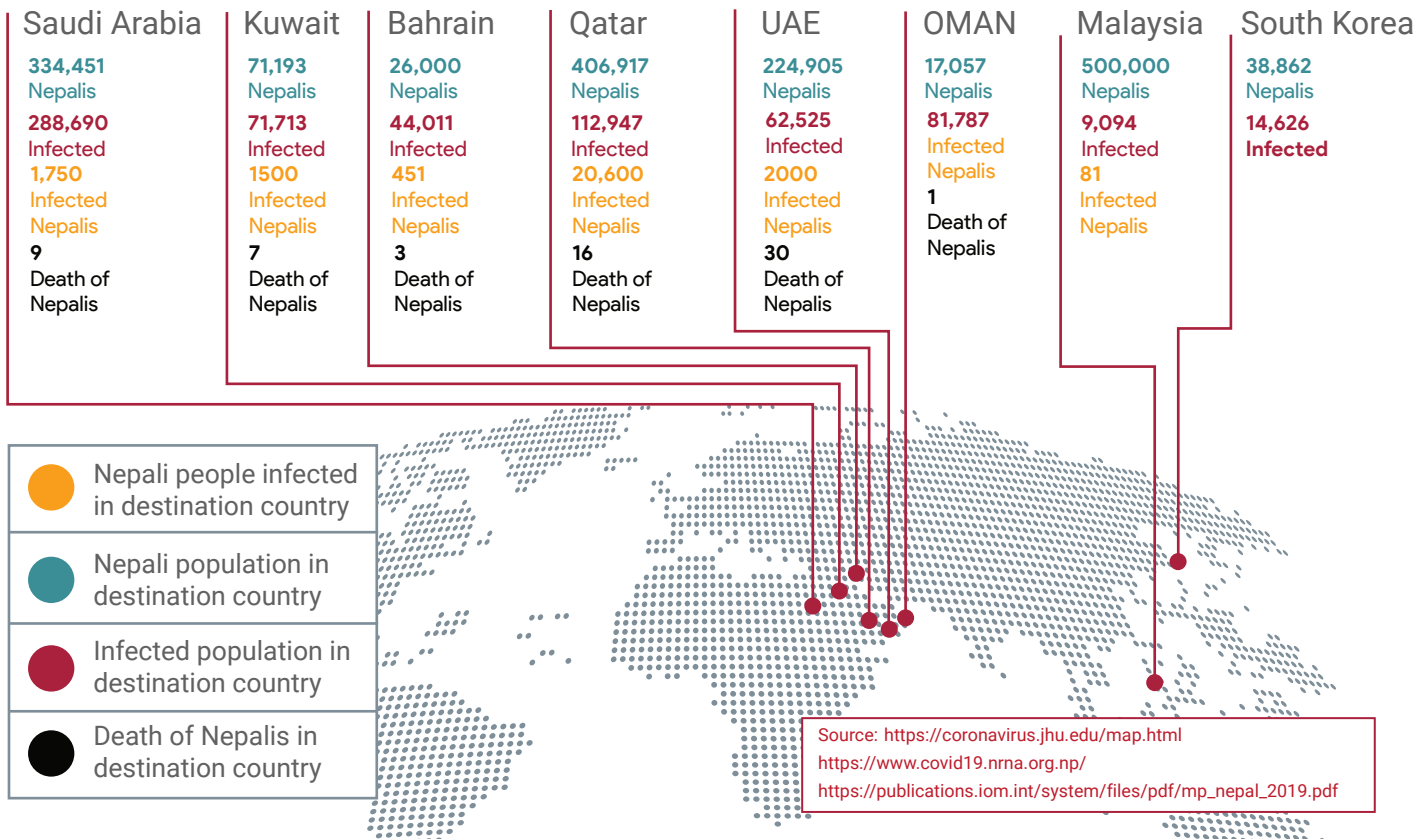
Toll-free **HOTLINE** on  
**COVID-19**

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**

**Are you returning to Qatar? Note these things.**

The Qatar government has made new rules for the returnees. According to which, it is mandatory for the PCR test to be negative when returning Qatar from some countries. As Nepal also falls in this category, Qatar Airways has said that all passengers coming to Qatar from Nepal need a PCR test negative report taken within 72 hours.

**The PCR taken from these places will only be considered valid**

1. Star Hospital, Sanepa Height
2. KMC Hospital, Sinamangal
3. Surya Health Care, Lazimpat
4. Grande International Hospital, Tokha
5. Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital, Teku
6. Bir Hospital, Sundhara
7. Patan Health Sciences Institute, Patan
8. HAMS Hospital, Dhumbrahi
9. Central Diagnostic Laboratory, Kamal Pokhari



You can listen to our facebook live at [www.facebook.com/shramik.sanjali](https://www.facebook.com/shramik.sanjali) every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evening **UAE time (8: 00 PM), Kuwait (7: 00 PM) and Malaysia (12 Midnight).**

# \$ 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**

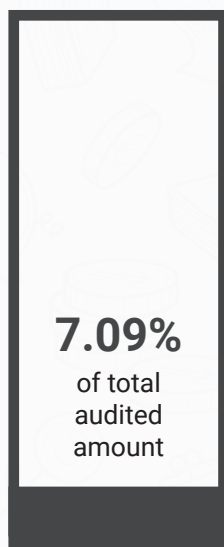
The Ministry of Defence for the purchase of health equipment to prevent and control COVID-19 released

**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 Province 2 in Fiscal Year 2075/2076



Arrears expenditure  
Rs. 1,825,399,000

No documentary evidence

**38.28%**

To be recovered

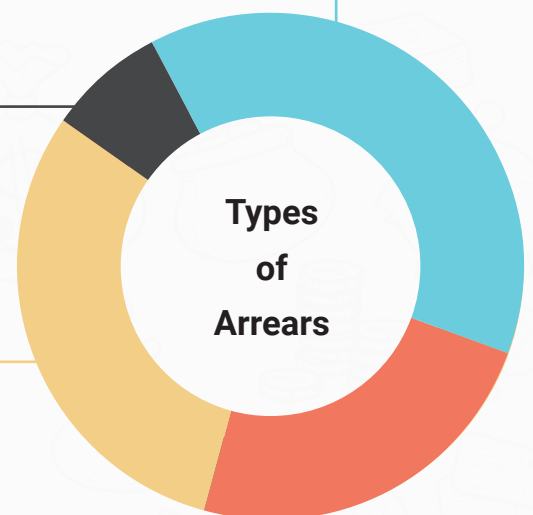
**7.58%**

Advance Payments

**30.28%**

To be regularized

**23.86%**



**TOTAL AUDITED AMOUNT**  
**25.7 BILLION NRS**

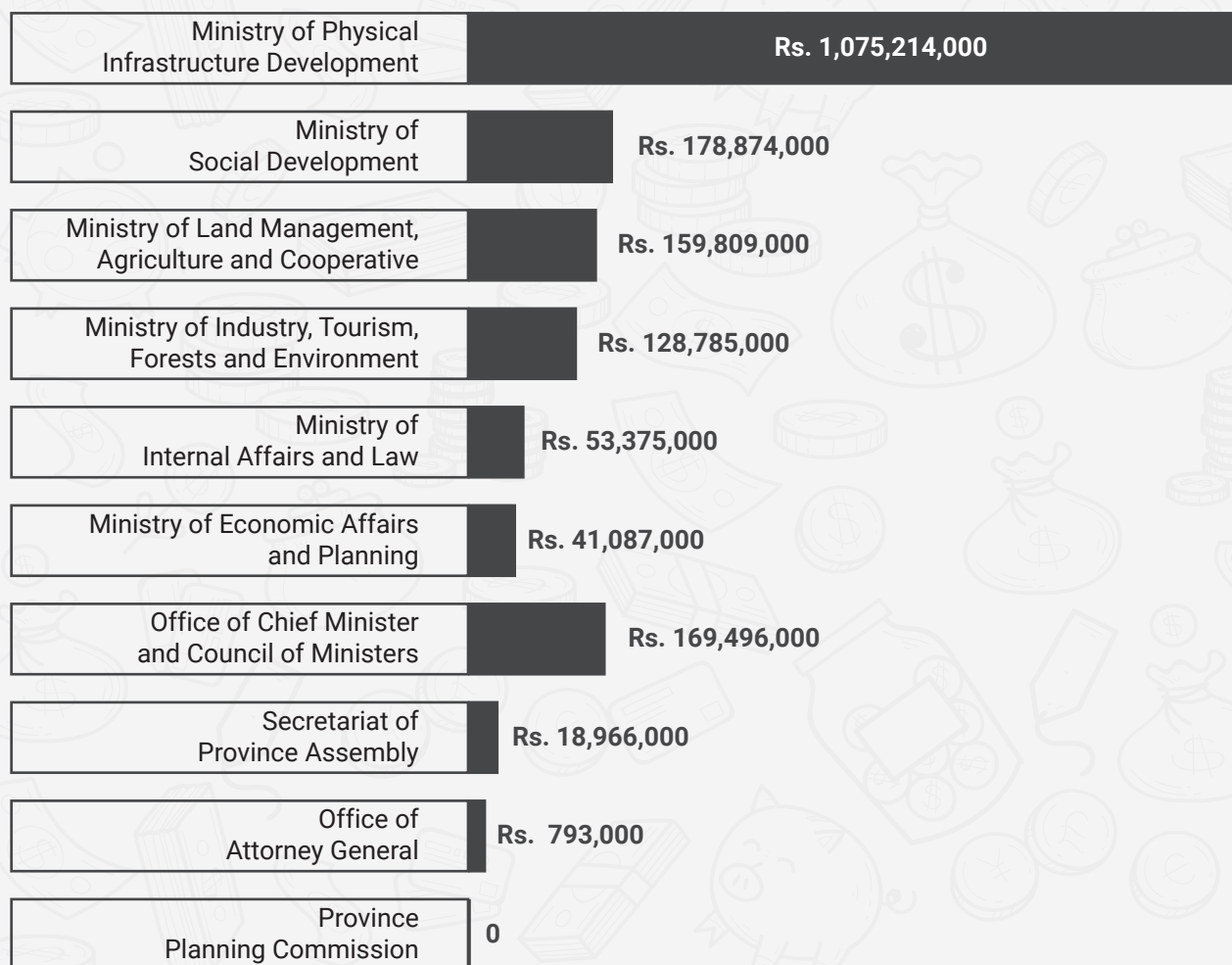
**TOTAL AGENCIES AUDITED** **126**

**AGENCIES WITH ARREARS** **95**



# \$ Follow the Money

## Comparison of ministries and their Arrears expenditure of Province 2 in fiscal year 2075/2076



Province 2 has an arrear amount of over 1.8 billion NRS, which is 7.09% of its total audited amount which is extremely high. The arrears percentage to the total audited amount (25.7 billion NRS) is the highest in Province 2 compared to other provinces in past Issues. Over 75% of its agencies (95 out of 126) have arrears. In Province 2, high arrears has occurred due to no documentary evidence (38.28%) and advance payments (30.28%). This shows that expenses and finance was very poorly managed in the last fiscal year in this province.

Most of the ministries/agencies have high arrears which portray a dismal picture. The ministry of Physical Infrastructure has the highest arrears in this province directly affecting the development in priority areas. Pronouncements in budget like Service Seekers Satisfaction Survey, Emergency Fund establishment, Youth Centered Fund, Disaster management Procedures, Province policy of Food Security, Province Master Plan, and Province University etc have not been realized. Also, the office of Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers has prime functions in maintaining financial discipline and motivating/supervising other agencies to do the same, but the agency itself constituting such high arrears is very poor management and this should immediately be addressed by the provincial government.

*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



### Rangila Kumari Jaishwal

Deputy Chairperson, Garuda Municipality, Rautahat

"The coronavirus infection has already been observed in Garuda Municipality. This has spread some panic among the public. Because of this, there is a challenge in management as we have to work among the public. We have to go out of the house for work. It is risky to go out and work during this time. But we are working as carefully as we can".

### Santosh Kumar Thakur

Coordinator, Ganguly and Sapahi Isolation

"The responsibility of coordinating the Ganguly and Sapahi Isolation of Dhanusha district during the COVID-19 pandemic was and still is challenging. The isolation has a capacity of 200 beds. Despite the fears in our minds, we have not spared any efforts in managing the isolation. House owners have a different view of physicians and health workers working in the hospitals and isolation centers. They try to behave as if we are carrying the virus. However, no complaints have been heard from those infected staying in the isolation I have coordinated. The happiness of engaging in the service of the infected patients day and night without caring anything else is greater than the pain of not being able to give time to the family for five month."



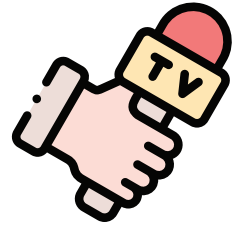
### Amit Kapar

Isolation Assistant, COVID-19 Hospital, Jaleswor, Mahottari

"We have been assigned as assistants in isolation, so we have to be more careful than anybody else. In the beginning, the infected individuals who came to isolation would leave tap open and make space dirty. That would make us annoyed and even the sanitation workers would complain a lot. However, the infected individuals now prefer to stay in the clean space. We used to be afraid to take food to the corona infected individuals, but the fear lessened as we started taking precautions. I feel proud to work in the isolation of the COVID-19 hospital."

## Impact of COVID-19 in media sector

With the global outbreak of the coronavirus, the Nepali media has fulfilled their business obligation while disseminating the information to the public. However, the media has failed in two things at the moment. First, they haven't followed with the health safety guidelines and second, they aren't regularly paying the reporters who are collecting news by putting their lives at risk. We can see many bitter examples of the media houses making the journalists work without paying them. However, even the media sector hasn't stayed unaffected from the impacts of the pandemic. Although the media houses have said that they don't have enough income to pay the media person, the claim cannot be easily believed by the concerned media person. Because, these media houses do not disclose their financial data anywhere except the government agencies where they have to submit their accounts. This has also widened a gap in trust between media houses and personnels.



At present, the ones who write stories of suffering, pain and injustice of others are themselves not being able to raise their voice against the discriminatory treatment towards them. Some journalists also argued that the media houses they work for shouldn't have taken such inhuman decisions during the time of crisis. But even that hasn't been heard. Some well-known media have also forced their employees to go on a compulsory leave. Similarly, about 800 media outlets across the country were shut down shortly after the outbreak of coronavirus.

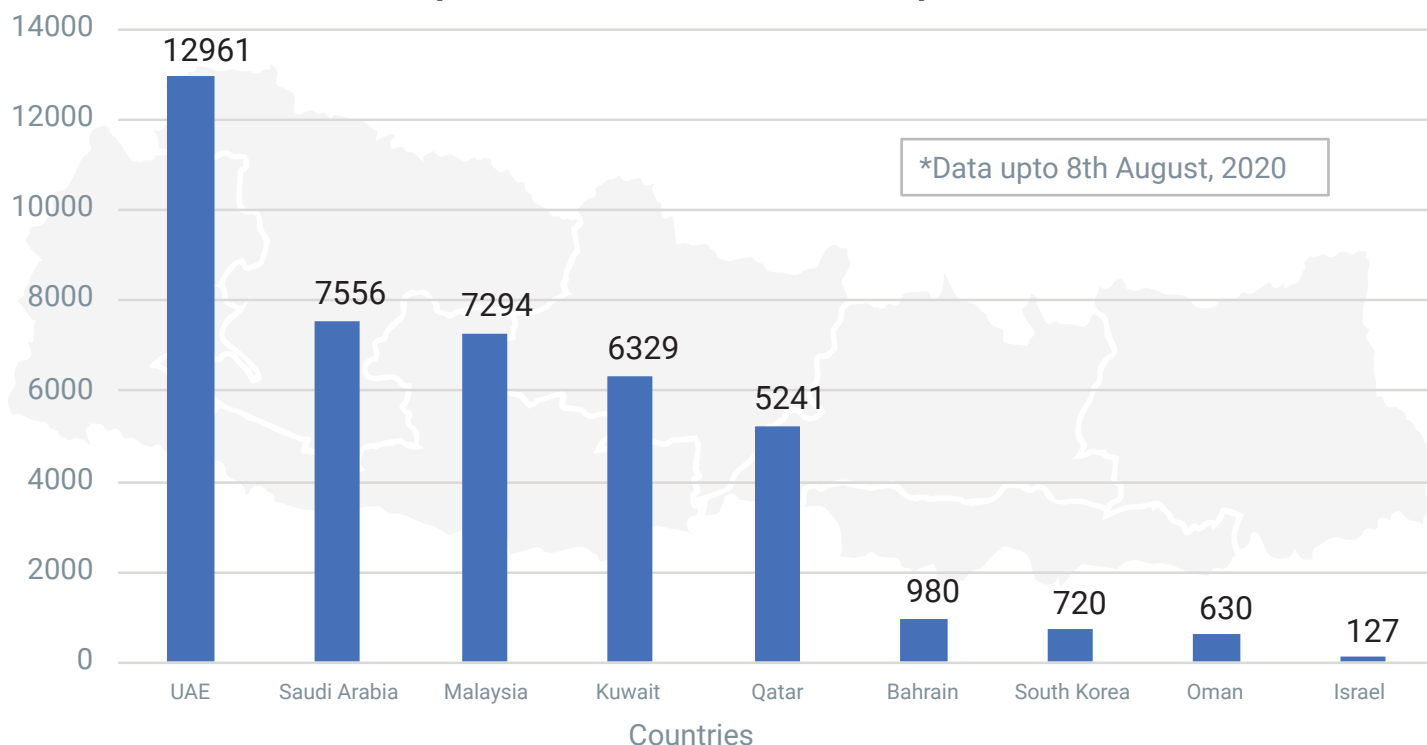
According to Nepal Advertising Association, the country's total advertising market including mass media and signage is around NRs. 12 Arab. Half of this number has been lost due to the pandemic. During this four month period, about 80% of the advertising market has been affected. In a nutshell, the role of the media is very important during this pandemic, but equally important is the livelihood of the working journalist.



**Chetana Kunwar**  
Assistant Researcher  
Center for Media Research Nepal

# Migrants Workers: Who have returned and what is the government's role in rescuing the remaining ones?

## Number of Migrant Workers who have returned to Nepal after the Coronavirus pandemic



The above graph shows the total number of migrant workers who have returned to Nepal after the Coronavirus infection from major destination countries. A total of 47,831 migrant workers who were stranded in different countries since June have managed to return back after the government started chartered flights to rescue the Nepali workers. However, only the ones who were able to pay the cost of the flight have been rescued till date. A provision for those who cannot bear the cost has already been made and the process to rescue them from the destination countries is being implemented. But, the number of flights per day is very limited and the government should be looking towards increasing the number of flights to hasten the rescue process.

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 August 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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