

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.

Standards to be maintained while celebrating festivals, processions and celebrations

1. Minimize meetings with people other than those living in the same house while celebrating all kinds of festivals.
2. Make arrangements of gathering only 25 people at religious places and programs.
3. Maintain physical distance from far while greeting.
4. Do not touch the surface, idols of gods and goddesses, and things that come to the use of many people.
5. Do not split in public places.
6. Use electronic means as much possible during financial transactions.
7. Individuals from high risk groups should not participate in the meetings which include people from outside the immediate family.

Managerial aspects to be considered by the organizer of a program or event

1. Mobilize trained staff and volunteers with health safety standards to manage the crowd.
2. Provide adequate soap and water or sanitizer for washing hands.
3. Clean the venue and disinfect it at least twice a day.
4. Keep the duration of the program as short as possible.
5. Paste public awareness material related to COVID-19 at the event venue.
6. Use signs to maintain physical distance.
7. Measure the temperature of participants at the entrance with a thermometer.
8. Make appropriate arrangements and coordinate with local administration, health and other stake holders at the local unit to meet the public health standards.
9. Arrange garbage bins with lids for garbage disposal.
10. Stop offerings [Tika or Prasad] as far as possible.

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

Nepal Update



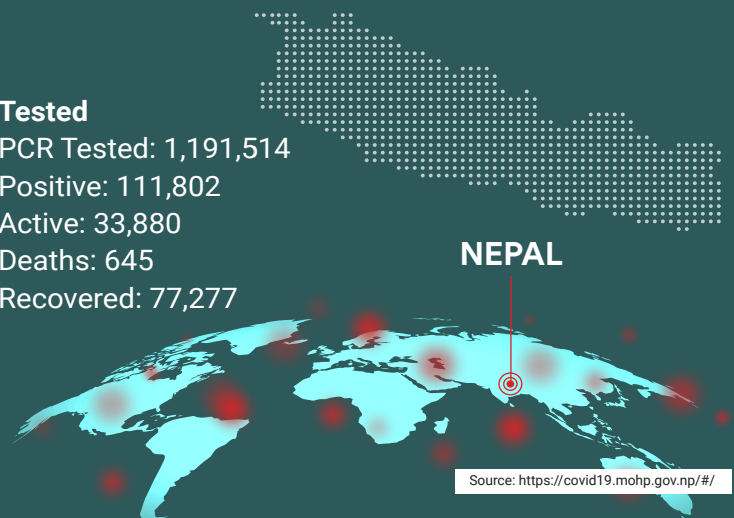
A 11 year old girl receiving a discharge certificate after being corona free in Butwal-11.

Photo : Bhawani Prasad Pandey

Tested

PCR Tested: 1,191,514
 Positive: 111,802
 Active: 33,880
 Deaths: 645
 Recovered: 77,277

NEPAL



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

Rumors & Facts



We hear that Nepal Telecom is providing free service for students to study online. What does this mean?

According to the "Contingency Action Plan on School Education 2077" of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal, Nepal Telecom will provide a Closed User Group SIM card for free to all government and community school students, teachers and any one member of the student's family. For this, the concerned person has to fill the form and submit it to the concerned school. The school should then get recommendation from the local unit. Thus, the recommended mobile number will be available for the duration of the demand period. The fee for the service will be borne by the Government of Nepal. See the link below to understand the detailed process.

Source: <https://www.ntc.net.np/post/paathshala-cug-sim-distribution>



The number of people returning home is increasing with Dashain coming closer. The risk of infection is high when driving home in crowded vehicles. How is the police administration planning to take care of this issue?

The traffic police are committed to adhere to the health safety standards set by the government in public transport. Public transport is being checked by mobilizing police with health security in many places. Action has also been taken against some vehicles in hilly districts carrying more passengers than prescribed and charging higher fares. Within a day or two, in coordination with the concerned bodies, citizen helpdesks will be set up in various places to raise awareness. Further, checking will be made strict considering the risk of infection.

Source: Dillinarayan Pandey , Spokesperson and Deputy Superintendent of Police, Lumbini Province, Traffic Police Office, Butwal



We hear that the government has terminated all the health institutions that conduct health check-ups prior to individuals going for foreign employment. Has it terminated all or only a few?

According to the revised Foreign Employment Regulations 2076, the government had asked the health institutions to make an additional deposit of Rs. 200,000 at the Department of Foreign Employment. The government has decided to terminate 35 health institutions from the list that have not paid the additional deposit amount within the allocated time. The list with the names and addresses of these health institutions can be viewed at the link below.

Source: <https://moless.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/kanun.pdf>



Is there no service charge for paying revenue electronically?

There is no service charge for paying government revenue through electronic means (wallet). Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) has instructed the payment service providers not to charge any additional fee while government revenue is being paid from wallet. According to NRB, no additional fee will be charged for paying government revenue till the end of Poush. The government made this decision to make it convenient for the people to pay the revenue during the pandemic.


Source: https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/10/IMG_20201009_0003.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.



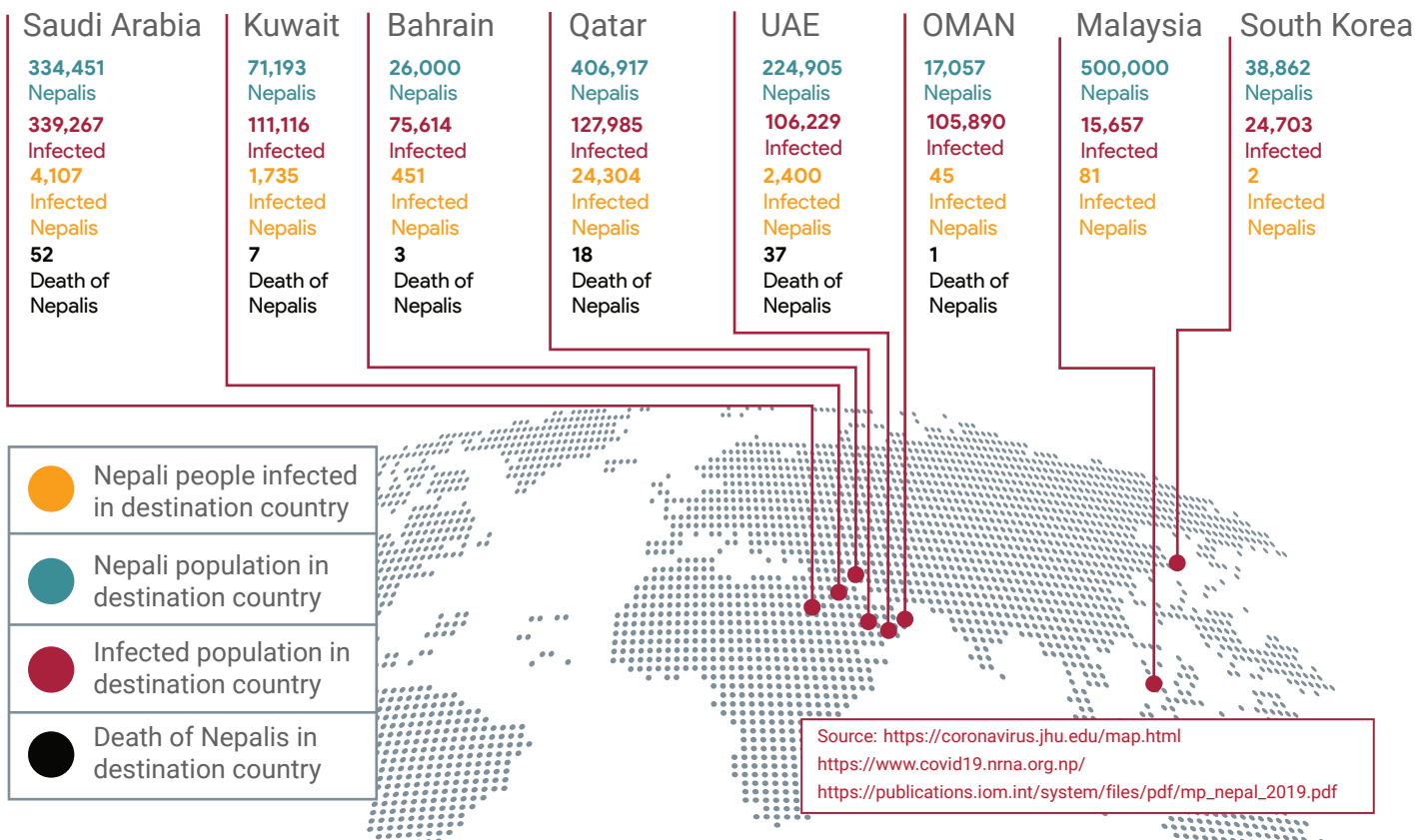
Toll-free **HOTLINE** on
COVID-19

Brought to you by 

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

Open Migration

Migrant workers in major destination countries



ShramikSanjal

Lockdown to restart in the Gulf countries

Oman

Oman is undergoing a lockdown again. It is prohibited to move around from 8pm at night to 6 am in the morning. The lockdown is taking place until 24th October 2020.

UAE

The grace period allocated for the visa expired from 1 March 2020 to 12 July 2020 is over. For the ones who have not renewed the visa or got a new visa will be charged a fine of Rs. 125 for the first day and 25 Dirham for the remaining days. This provision is being implemented from 11 October 2020.

Kuwait

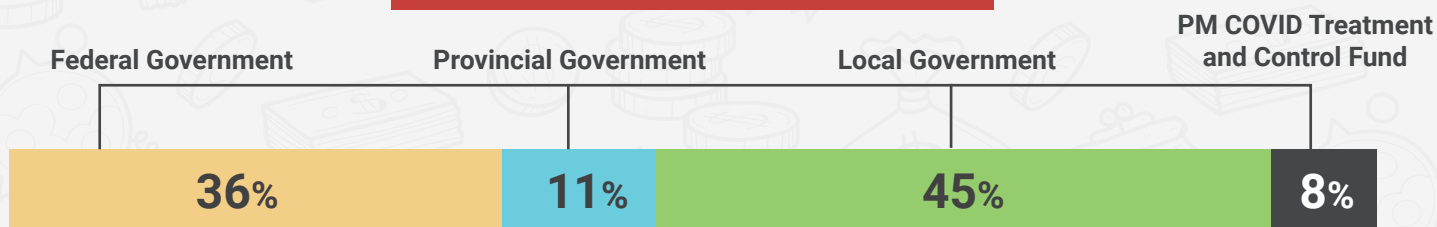
Five women domestic workers in Kuwait (who were told to be Asian- the name of the country was not revealed) were charged for theft of Nepali Rupees 42 Lakh earlier. They have now been declared innocent by the court there.

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

\$ Follow the Money

Total expenses by the Government of Nepal until Shrawan 2077 to Fight Against Coronavirus

13.37 Billion NRS



Expense Headings at the Federal Government




Medicine and Health Equipments
Rs. 1,755,240,000



Quarantine Management
Rs. 46,946,000



Health Infrastructure
Rs. 2,938,896,000

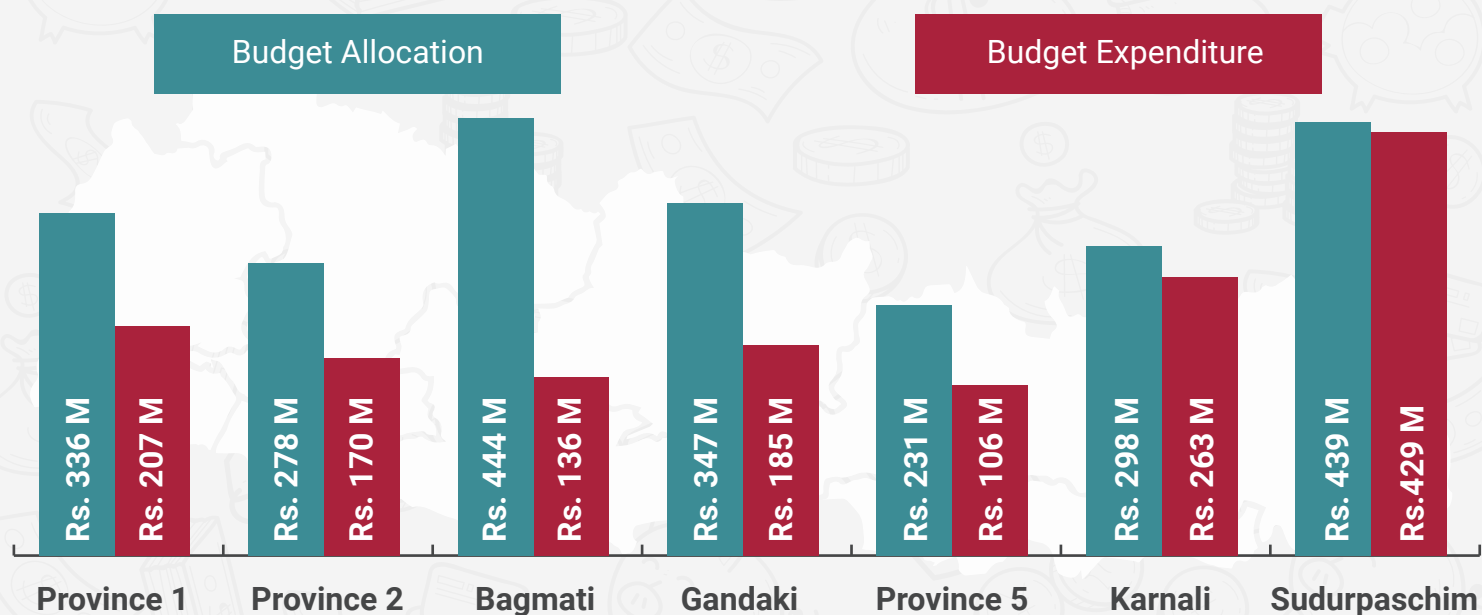


Other Expenses
Rs. 12,473,000



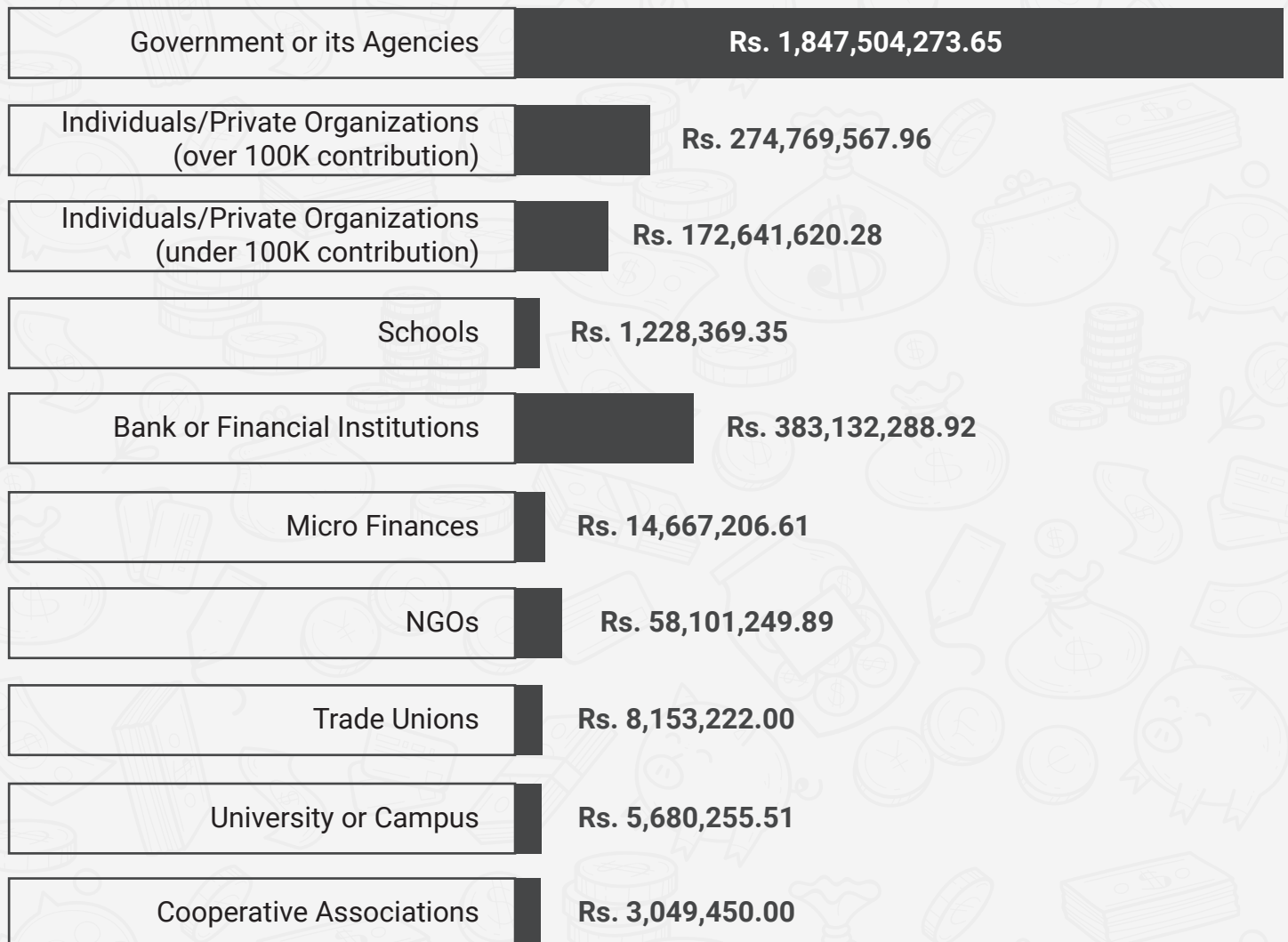
Human Resource Mobilization
Rs. 57,443,000

Expense made by Provincial Government



\$ Follow the Money

The Contributors to the PM Corona Relief Fund



The PM Corona relief fund has accumulated NRs 2.76 billion as wilful contributions from the general public. 67% of the contributions were made by government agencies like ministries, government owned enterprises, district government offices and some government staff. Contributions of over Rs. 100,000 from individuals and private sectors accounted for 10% of the total funds. In total all private sector organizations and individuals contributed around 16% of the total fund. As expected, banks and financial institutions, including the ones owned by the government, contributed around 14% of the fund. Contributions from other sectors like NGOs, trade unions and universities are very small compared to total fund raised but still very necessary considering the present pandemic. It can be argued that most of the funds for the PM relief came from the government treasury. However, it must also be remembered that government officials and parliamentarians also contributed part of the salaries/benefits to these funds.

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.



How can we rely on the government?



With the onset of the global pandemic, thousands of Nepalis returned home from various cities in India. The same Nepalis are returning back to India to satisfy their family's hunger due to unemployment. The line of hundreds of people seen daily at the Jamunaha checkpoint in Nepalgunj is a vivid example. Ramesh Thapa Magar of Kailali is going through the same. He had been working in a hotel in Pune, India for a long time. After the Corona pandemic began, he, like everyone else, was terrified and was remembering his family. He felt he could again earn if he survived. He thought the situation would return to normal soon but it didn't. It

was difficult to manage two meals for the family. When he did not find any other alternative, he planned to go to India again and left his family in the midst of the pandemic.

He lined up at Jamunaha checkpoint in Nepalgunj in the morning, but could not get a pass to cross the border as he did not have an Indian Aadhaar Card. He came up with another idea. Shimla traders make recommendations to take Nepali workers and even arrange a vehicle after crossing the border. Now he has decided to join this crowd. He has to cross the border anyway. He doesn't know whether he will reach Shimla or Pune. He doesn't even care what the situation is there. He just needs a way to feed his family.

Brother, are you going to India?

Yes brother.

Why are you planning to go in such a pandemic?

What to do, I have to take care of my family.

Can't you do something here?

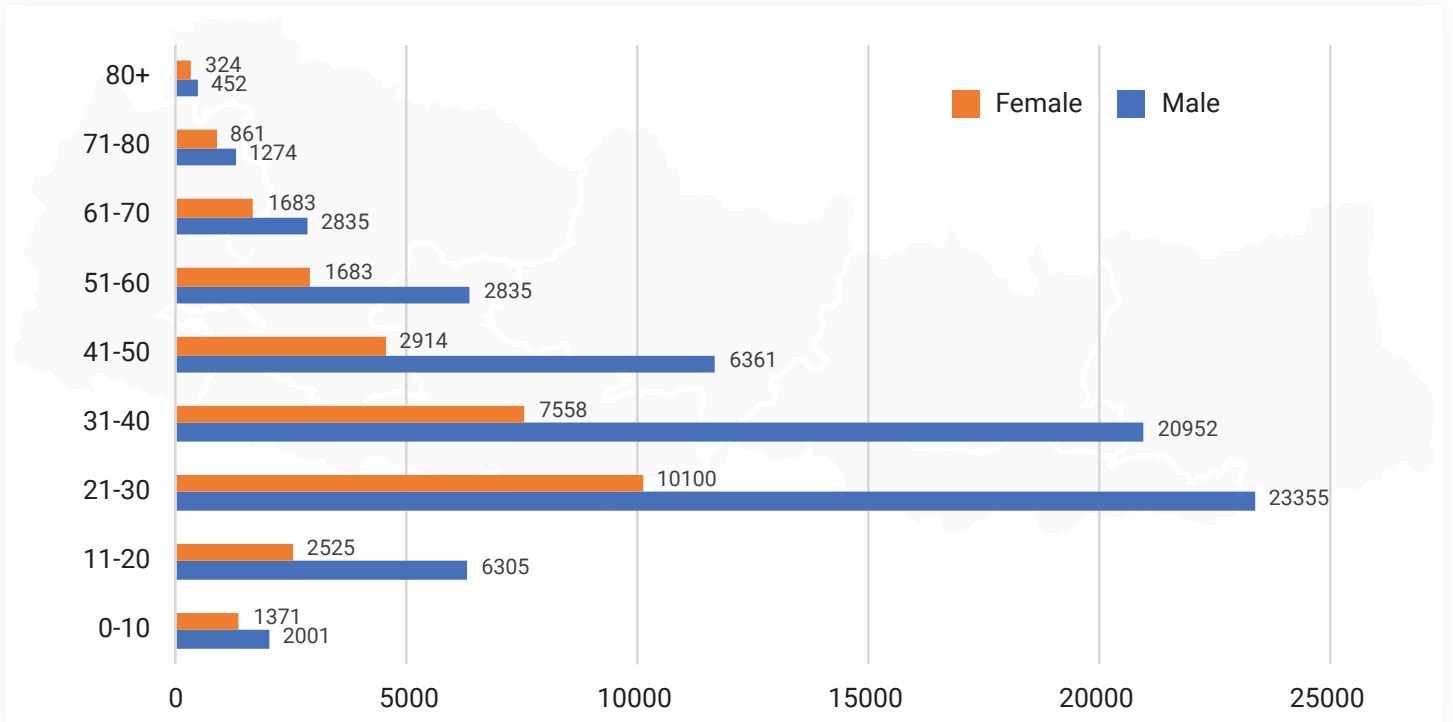
What to do and where? Will you give me a job? Brother, the government is not for us. It is only for the one who has access. I am not saying the government should give money and feed my family. They could not even give me a job, there are thousands more like me. How to rely on the government? I would die and take care of my family rather than making them starve of hunger and die. Everyone has the will to live. Even I do. But, my family's hunger is a thousand times more important than my desire to live.

He got mixed in the crowd ignoring all the health standards set by the government. Don't know if he was able to cross the border. But, it is sure hunger is more important to him than the disease itself.



The alarming rate at which more people are being tested positive in Nepal

Percentage of Positive Cases out of total PCT Tests Performed in the Last Two Weeks in Nepal

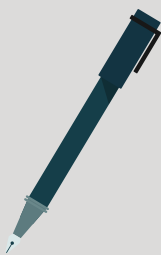


The above graph shows the percentage of positive cases out of total tests conducted per day for the last two weeks in Nepal. It shows that the ratio of positive cases is slowly increasing every day. On 7th October, one in every four people that conducted the test, tested positive. This is very alarming because over this period the number of daily tests by and large remained the same. It implies that COVID-19 has spread in the community deeper than anticipated by public health authorities in Nepal.

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 different people, directly and indirectly, over the past week. 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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