

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.

Format of community projects based on the payment for works

The following types of projects will be implemented under the Prime Minister's Employment Program to ensure minimum employment to the unemployed individuals listed at the local level and to improve the livelihood of the citizens through development of community infrastructures:

1. Public infrastructure construction or other public projects

(The unemployed individuals listed in the Employment Service Center will be mobilized for construction work and will be provided the wages for working days - Cash for Construction Work)



2. Employment oriented project in public infrastructure maintenance

(The unemployed individuals listed in the Employment Service Center will be mobilized for the maintenance of public infrastructure within the local level and will be provided the working day wages - Cash for maintenance work)

3. Partnership project on laborers' wages

(Involve the listed unemployed in the projects being implemented by the public sector and share the accrued wages in full or in part in this program - Labor wage sharing)



4. Other public sector projects

(if there is a demand for labor in the construction and other works operated by the public employers, the Employment Service Center will mobilize the listed unemployed individuals.)

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

Nepal Update



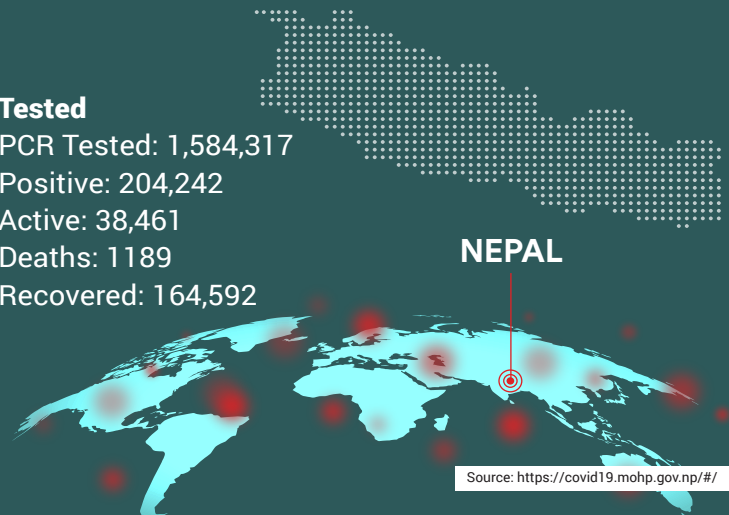
The crowd of service-seekers in the Land Revenue Office in-between the pandemic in Surkhet

Photo : Dinesh Gautam

Tested

PCR Tested: 1,584,317
Positive: 204,242
Active: 38,461
Deaths: 1189
Recovered: 164,592

NEPAL



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

Rumors & Facts



It is heard that the government has given permission to open the crowded recreational areas.

It is said that the services and works related to tourism including cable car, adventure tourism, jungle safari, museum etc will be brought into operation by following the approved health standards and the guidelines prescribed by the Ministry for operation of such services. However, if it appears necessary to stop such activities by analyzing the risk of COVID-19 infection, the concerned DCCMC can take necessary decisions in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population.

Source: https://ccmc.gov.np/key_decisions/key%20dicsion%202077.07.23.pdf



After Dashain, another festival Tihar is approaching. The activities such as Deusi Bhailo are likely to increase the risk of infection. What is the government doing about it?

The Ministry of Home Affairs has requested through public notice to stay safe inside the house, avoid participating in programs that involve crowds such as Deusi Bhailo and also avoid sending children to such programs for the prevention and control of COVID-19 infection. It has also been stated that strong action will be taken against those who act against the notice.

Source: <https://moha.gov.np/post/va-ja-niapa-ta-7>



It has been said that there will be free testing and treatment of COVID-19 again, what does it mean?

The Government of Nepal has again stated that the treatment of COVID-19 will be provided free of cost in government laboratories and government hospitals listed for testing and treatment of COVID-19. This service will apply to patients with symptoms. However, for those who have done corona insurance from any insurance company, their entire testing and treatment expenses will be borne from the insurance amount. The capable and willing individuals will also be able to contribute to testing and treatment.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/mohpnep/videos/1009717372864668>



It is heard that the Karnali Province Government is providing a grant of up to NRs. 1 Crore at 2 percent interest for those willing to do entrepreneurship. Is it true? If so, how can we achieve it?

Those who want to start an enterprise in Karnali will get a loan of up to NRs. 1 Crore at an annual interest rate of 2 percent. The province government has made arrangements to provide loans at low interest rates to those who want to invest and start an enterprise in the agriculture and livestock sector. However, collateral must be mandatorily kept while taking a loan. Depending on the nature of the business and action plan, a loan of NRs. 1 Lakh to NRs. 1 Crore can be taken. An agreement has been reached between the Agricultural Development Bank and the ministry to provide loans at 2 percent from 18 branches in 10 districts.


Source: <https://cutt.ly/SgNW04n>

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

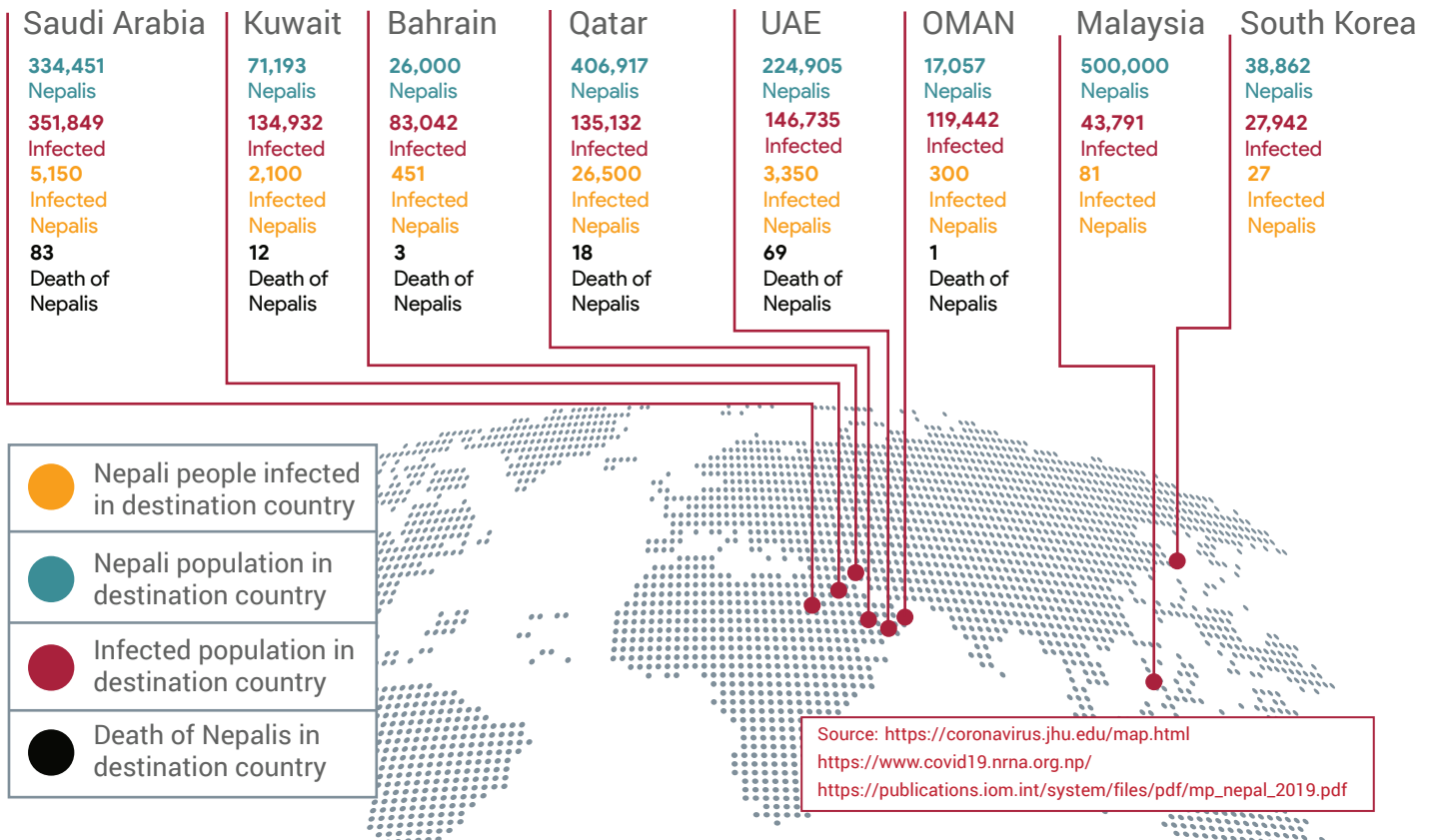
Brought to you by  viamo

DIAL **32100**

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

Open Migration

Migrant workers in major destination countries



ShramikSanjal

Important Information on Qatar's seasonal flu and the UAE's amnesty

Qatar

In Qatar, children between the age of 6 months to 5 years, all citizens above 50 years of age, all types of chronic patients who are at high risk of getting affected by seasonal flu and pregnant women are kept in priority for vaccination against seasonal flu. The vaccine is available free of charge at all clinics under Hamad Medical Corporation as well as more than 40 other private clinics and hospitals in Qatar. To get detailed information on the subject or to make an appointment, you can call 107 and press option 4 or 5 to speak in Hindi and English respectively.

UAE

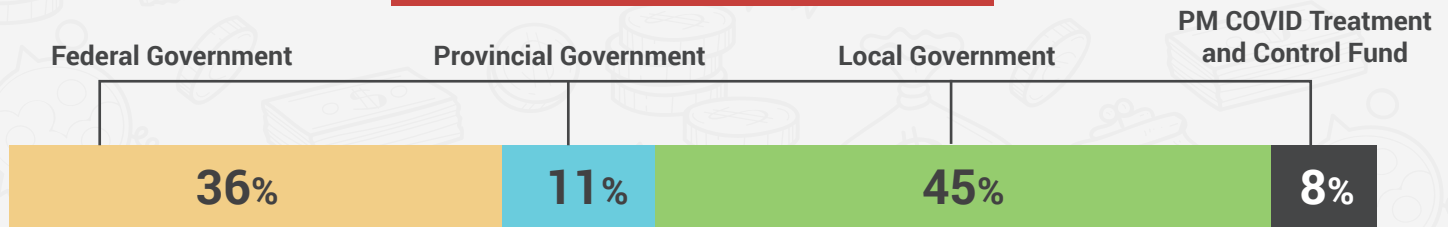
In the wake of the corona pandemic, the UAE government has made a provision to allow the individuals whose visas have expired before 1 March to return home without penalty. The earlier deadline of 18 August has been updated and extended to 17 November. If your visa expired before March and you are staying illegally in the UAE, this opportunity will be applicable for a few days.

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



Health Infrastructure
Rs. 2,938,896,000



Human Resource Mobilization
Rs. 57,443,000

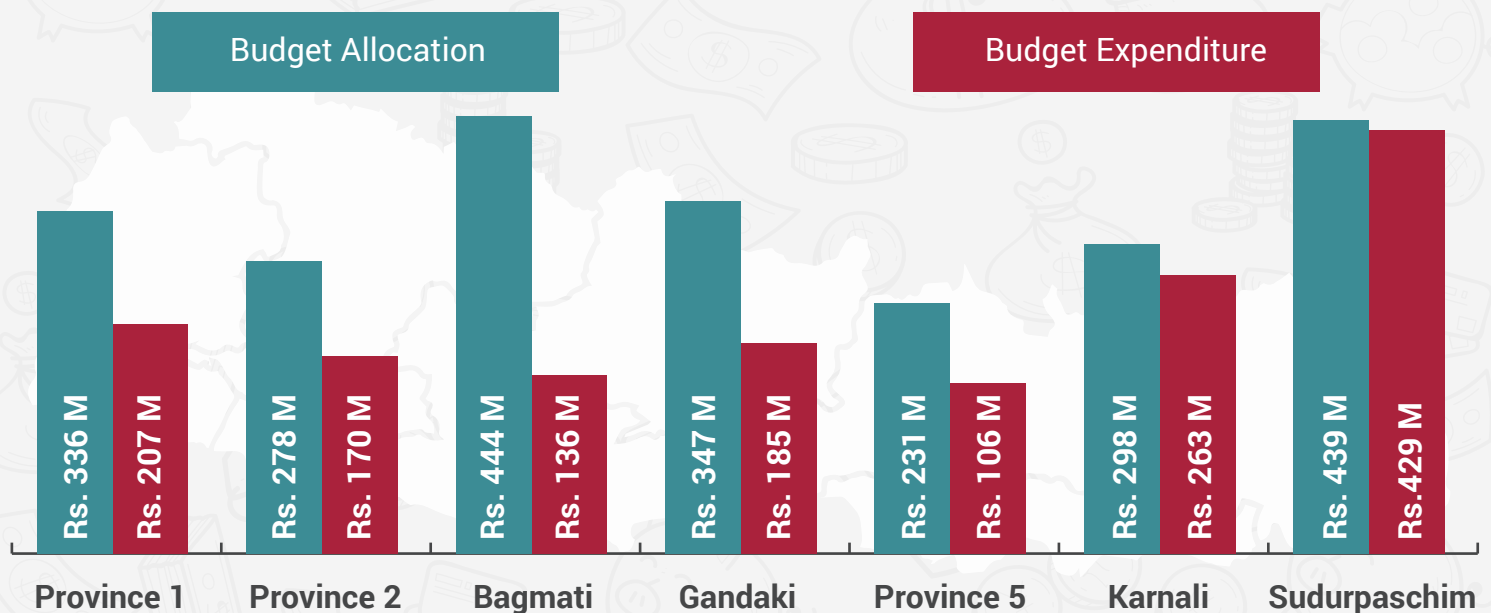


Quarantine Management
Rs. 46,946,000



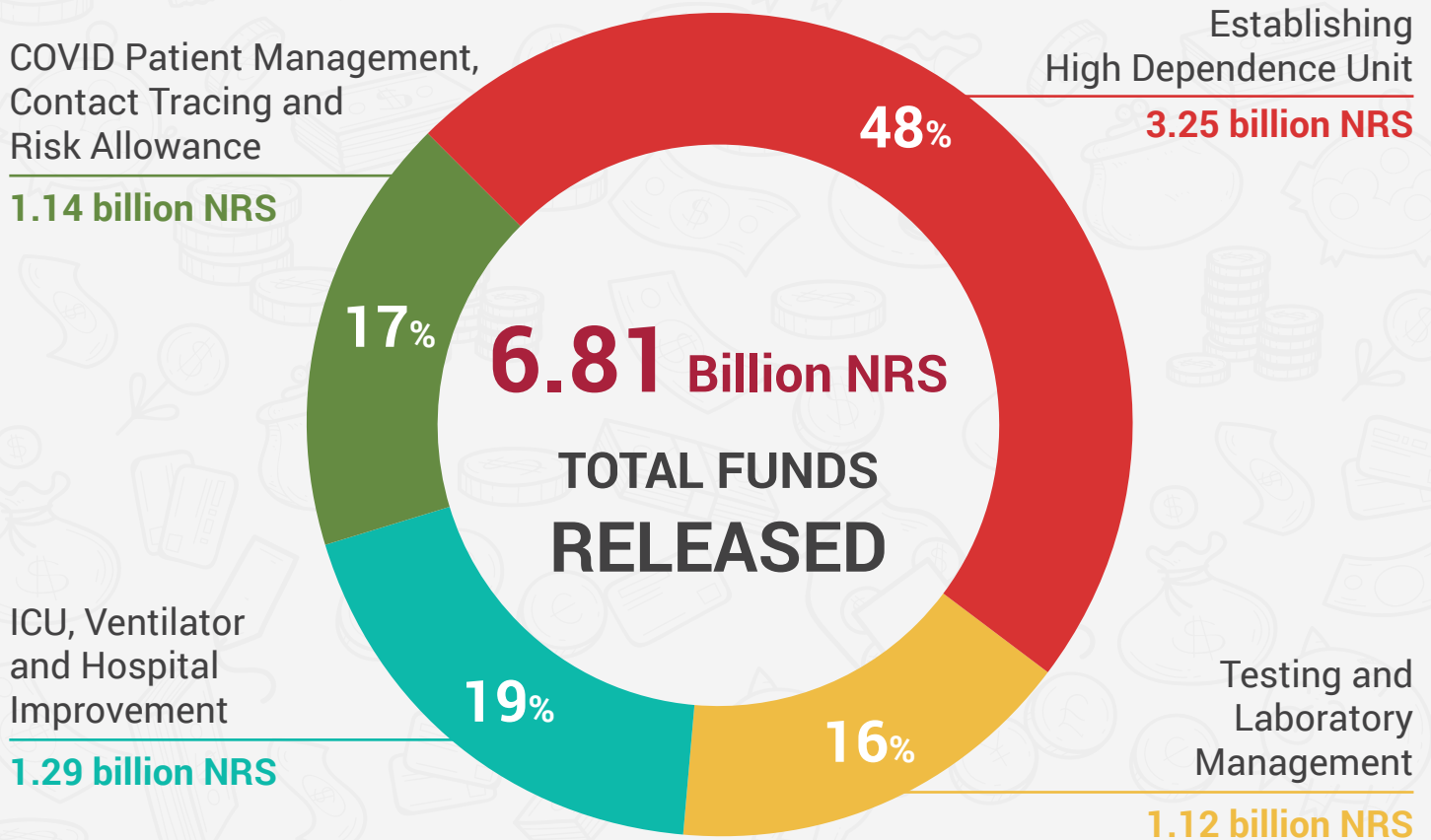
Other Expenses
Rs. 12,473,000

Expense made by Provincial Government



\$ Follow the Money

Funds released by the government on the first trimester of the current fiscal year (Shrawan - Kartik 2077/2078)



The Ministry of Health and Population has published information related to their allocation of funds on corona related expenses for the first trimester (Shrawan - Kartik of the fiscal year 2077/78) where a total of 6.81 billion NRS has been allocated. The spending of these funds will be shared between the federal, provincial and local governments. Establishing a High Dependence Unit shares the major chunk of the allocation occupying 48% of the total allocation. Government has allocated Nrs 1.29 billion for ICU services, ventilator expenses and hospital improvement activities. It has also released another Nrs 1.14 billion for COVID patient management, contract tracing and risk allowance. Given the present condition where more people are in home isolation (around 28,000) than in institutional isolation (around 10,519), it is but obvious to expect that the major chunk of said 1.14 billion NRS should be used for contact tracing and risk allowance expenses rather than on COVID-19 patient management. The allocation is also remarkable considering there are reports of health professionals who have not received any risk allowances. Government should not only allocate money but also ensure that the money is actually being spent on assigned headings by monitoring the spending of federal, provincial and the local governments.

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.



Bipana Neupane

Medical Lab Technologist
National Public Health Laboratory

"I was very scared initially, maybe because I have a 2 years old child, I was pressured to leave my job. But I moved forward thinking the pandemic may come again and running from it every time isn't a solution. I wouldn't know when I would return home after arriving at the laboratory at 9 in the morning. The process of DNA extraction of the PCR could only be done one by one. Only 96 samples could be tested at a time. But now the management is getting better. Initially, it used to take four hours, but now 96 samples can be tested in 45 minutes."

Achyut Gautam

Chairperson
Padini Rural Municipality, Arghakhanchi

"Since the community people itself are very aware now, those who enter the local unit are kept on 15 days home quarantine. It was very difficult for the local unit to sustain the pressure after the federal and provincial government instructed us to stop PCR tests except for those who show symptoms. I have a family of 7 in the house. My 74 years old father is also there. As a local representative elected to serve the people, I am obliged to meet everyone. I am careful that the family members and residents within the local unit should not get infected because of me."

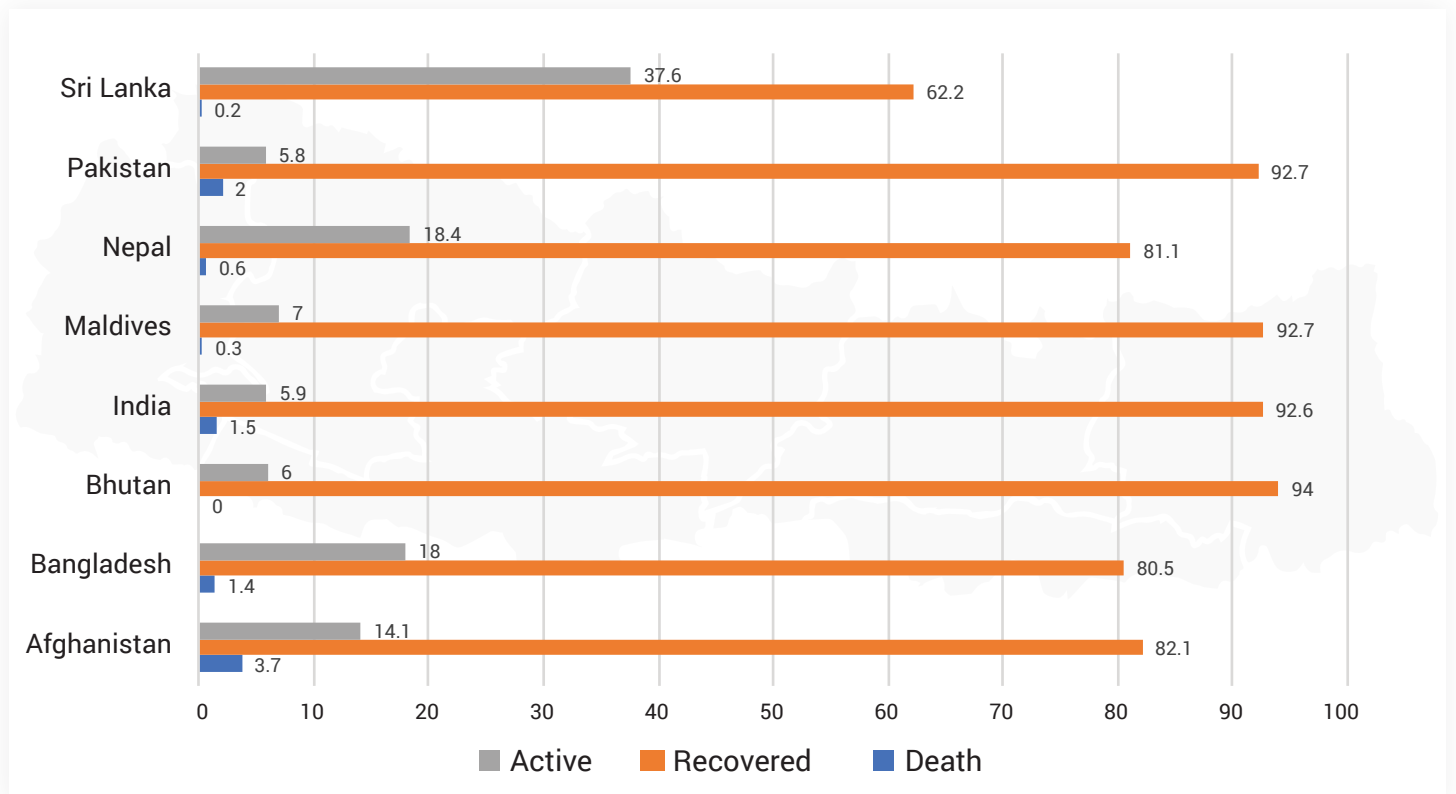


Rabindra Chaudhary

Chief Administration Officer
Shuddhodhan Rural Municipality, Rupandehi

"When the lockdown began, I was in the headquarter of Rolpa some 60 kilometers southeast of Liwang in Lungri village. The first 8-10 days were very scary. As local representatives and officials have to work in any situation, I worked in quarantine construction and management. I have been working in Shuddhodhan Rural Municipality of Rupandehi since 7 Ashwin 2077. Probably due to overpopulation, crowding and high business activities, the adherence to the health standards seem to be declining. This has added to the fear of increasing infection."

Active, Recovered and Death Rates of COVID-19 cases in SAARC Countries



The above graph shows the percentages of active, recovered and death cases in SAARC countries. Among the SAARC countries, it can be seen that Bhutan has comparatively much better percentages with only 6% of total cases in the country being active while having close to 0 percent death rate. Nepal stands in the middle regarding percentage of recovered cases (81.1%) and death cases (0.6%), but the total percentage of active cases (18.4%) is second highest after Sri Lanka. This points out that although the cases in Nepal are still not very serious, the rate at which people are being tested positive is still high, begging the question, when will the situation subside 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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