

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.

Estimated budget for COVID-19 for the next four months (from Kartik to Magh 2077)

Epidemiology
related activities for
infection prevention

NRs. 60,00,000

Community
participation and
local activities

NRs. 74,48,30,000

Contract tracing
related activities

NRs. 10,38,64,000

Quarantine
management
related activities

NRs. 33,60,00,000

Testing and
treatment activities

NRs. 18,19,83,34,000

COVID-19 vaccine
related activities

NRs. 10,02,50,00,000

Activities related to
the continuity of basic
and essential health
services

NRs. 84,15,00,000

Material procurement
and supply manage-
ment

NRs. 2,00,12,88,000

Quality assurance

NRs. 7,52,00,000

COVID-19 information
management

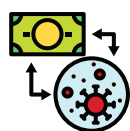
NRs. 10,80,00,000

Risk communication

NRs. 4,35,00,000

Good governance,
management and
regulation

NRs. 3,51,00,000



Total:

NRs. 32,51,86,17,000

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

Nepal Update

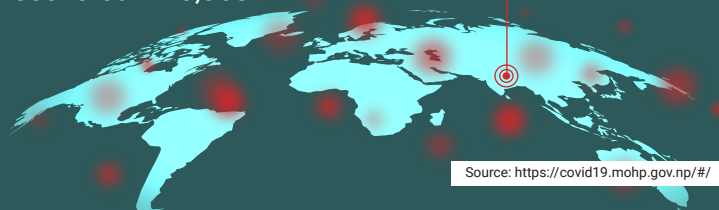


The Chairperson of Panauti Municipality, Bhim Neupane distributing allopathic medicines to the corona infected patients of Panauti Municipality, Kavrepalanchowk.
Photo: Keshav Raj Paudel

Tested

PCR Tested: 1,855,724
Positive: 251,692
Active: 9,580
Deaths: 1749
Recovered: 240,363

NEPAL



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

Rumors & Facts



It isn't known what steps are being taken to bring the COVID-19 vaccine to Nepal. It is said that even if the vaccine arrives, only a few people will be vaccinated.

The Government of Nepal is currently working with a quick action plan to vaccinate 72% of the current population against COVID-19 (vaccine hasn't been made for 28% of the population under 14 years of age). The government is currently working in coordination with the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the World Bank. However, when the vaccine arrives, the first priority will be given to health workers and then people at risk because of their age.

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



At present, the collateral of many businessmen at banks is in the process of being auctioned. It is said that Nepal Rastra Bank has brought a concessional rule in this regard?

The Nepal Rastra Bank has directed the banks and financial institutions of Category "A", "B" and "C" to postpone the auction process till the end of Ashad 2078 in case the debtor is affected by COVID-19 and the non-payment of interest is not for more than six months.

Source: <https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/12/ABC-final-monetary-policy-first-quarter-review.pdf>



The government had said that it will make financial transparency more effective. But it still hasn't made the COVID-19 related expenses public.

The government has also given priority to the regular public disclosure of expenditure related to COVID-19 in its "COVID-19 Health Sector Rapid Action Plan" (Kartik to Magh, 2077). It has been said in the action plan that in order to make financial transparency more effective, the details of expenditure related to COVID-19 will be consolidated from every level and made public every month. However, this statement of the government hasn't yet been put into practice.

Source: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FNJHQq7KUsgs9t-VPjYN4zv2maLp2Eu1/view>



Is it true that the swabs are stuck in Salyan due to the lack of money to send it to Surkhet?

The swab collected for PCR test is stuck in the hospital due to lack of funds in the health service office in Salyan. The collected swab couldn't be sent to Surkhet due to lack of funds. The corona focal person at the Health Service Office, Salyan, Mr. Rikharam Pun said that there was a problem in arranging transportation to send the swab collected to Corona Testing Center Surkhet due to lack of money. Pun said that even though an organization named Swastha ka lagi Saksham Pranali bears the transportation cost for sending swabs twice a month, but even the cost isn't enough.


Source: Rikharam Pun, Corona Focal Person, Health Service Office, Salyan

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.



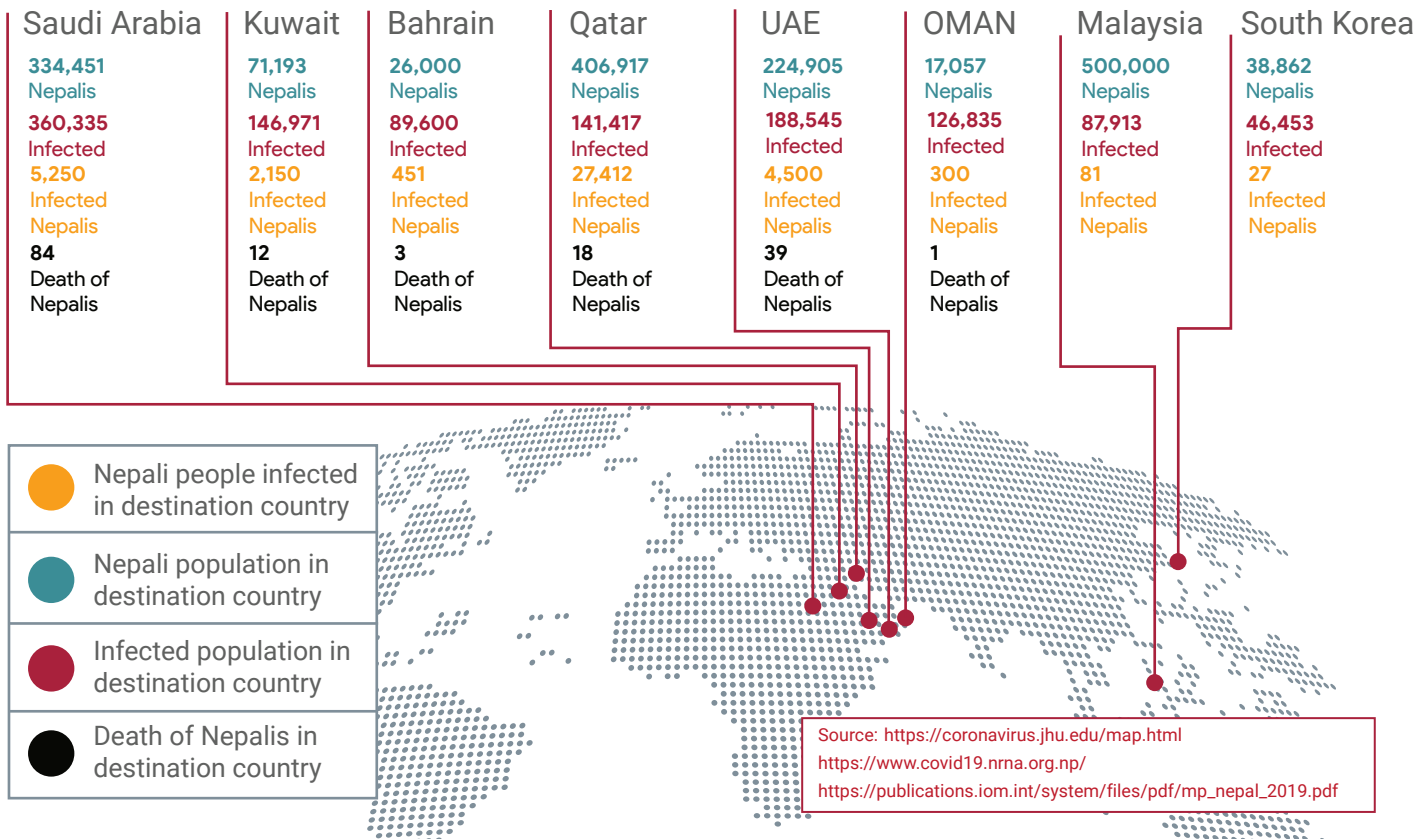
Toll-free **HOTLINE** on
COVID-19

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

Information about COVID-19 vaccine in Kuwait and Corporate Demand Attestation notice in Qatar

Kuwait

Vaccine against coronavirus will be available in Kuwait from this December. Those staying in Kuwait who want to receive the vaccine need to register their name and details through an online medium.

Qatar

As per the notice of Nepal Embassy in Qatar, the work for Corporate Demand Attestation will start from 1st of January. This means that after the COVID-19 pandemic a new opportunity will be available for Nepalese workers in Qatar.

Nepal

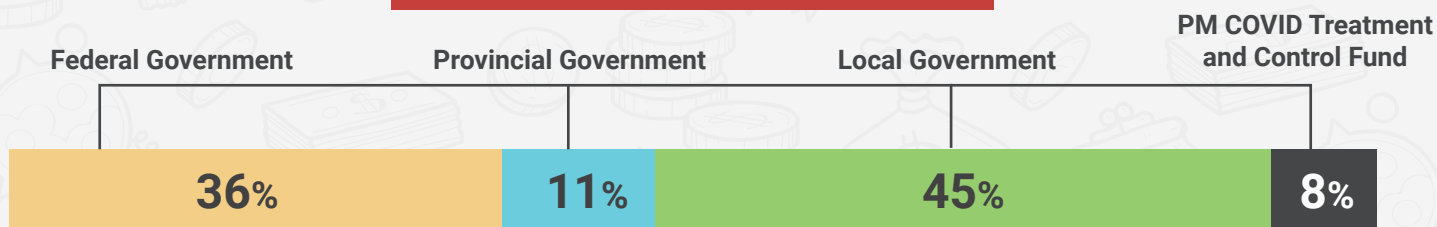
The payment for welfare fund and term insurance for labour permit can be done through online medium. As all the work can be done online we can be hopeful that we will be able to get our labour permit again from whichever country we are staying in. Since a few years people staying in foreign countries and those who were not able to return to Nepal during the holidays after 2 years have raised their voice that they should be able to gain labour permit from foreign countries. However this has never been done but now it will soon be implemented. One person will be able to renew their labour permit two times at most from the foreign country.

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

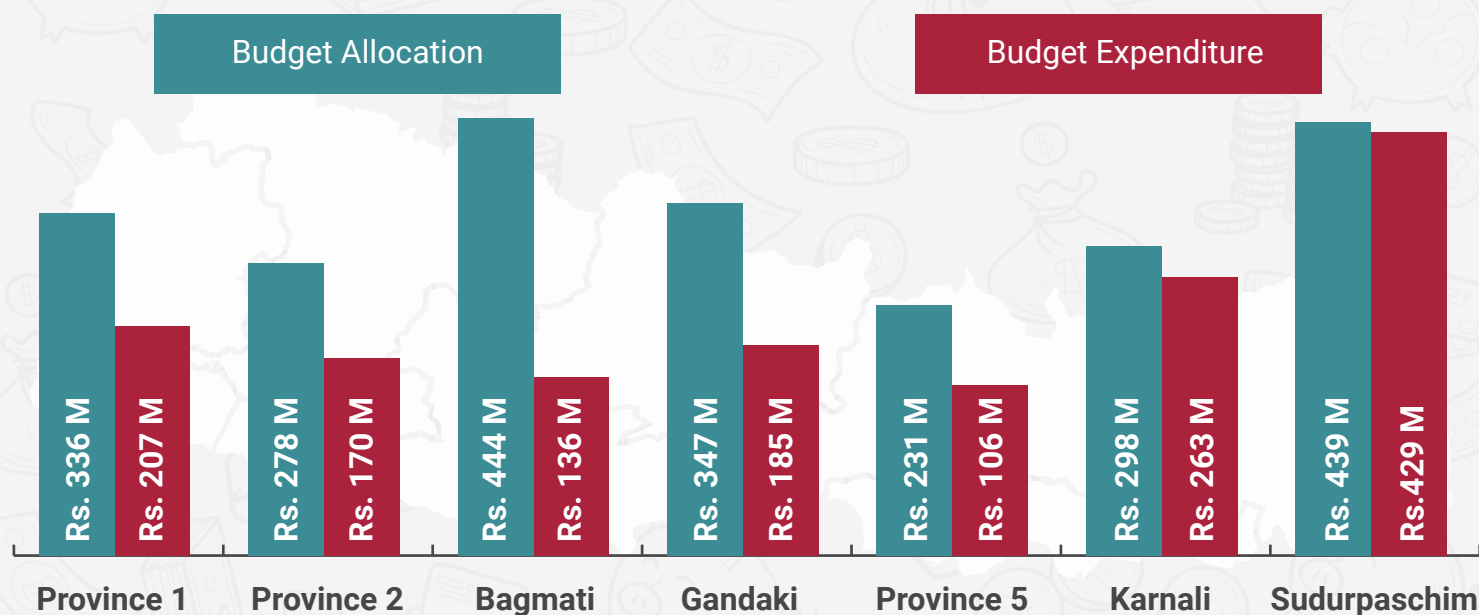

Quarantine Management
Rs. 46,946,000


Health Infrastructure
Rs. 2,938,896,000


Other Expenses
Rs. 12,473,000

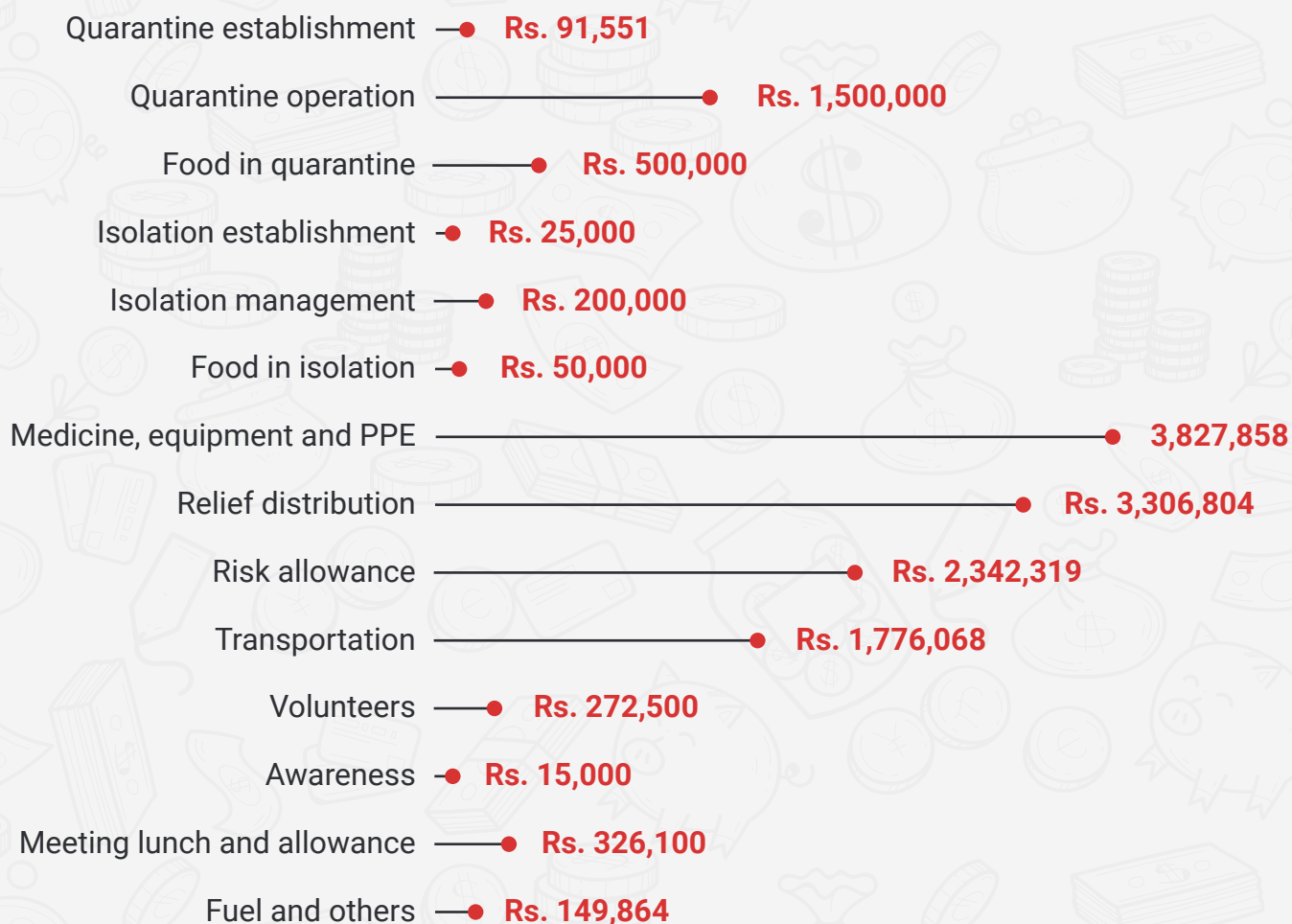

Human Resource Mobilization
Rs. 57,443,000

Expense made by Provincial Government



\$ Follow the Money

Expenses made by Bhairabi Rural Municipality in Dailekh for corona prevention, control and response till Ashar 2077



The expenses made by Bhairabi Rural Municipality in Dailekh shows that the local government has spent over 14.3 million NRS till Ashar 2077 on corona prevention, control and response. The highest expense was made on medicine, medicinal equipment and PPE which is very reasonable. But, the other high expense made after those raise questions. 3.3 million NRS spent on relief distribution and 1.7 million NRS spent on transportation alone is a huge amount compared to other expenses. A detailed explanation of relief distribution needs to be made transparent by the governments. Also, such a high amount spent on transportation could possibly be delegated onto other pressing expense headings such as improving the situation in quarantine and isolation. Also, the high expense made on meeting lunch and allowance is unnecessary, especially considering that the 300 thousand NRS spent on it is higher than the overall expense made on isolation establishment, management and food for patients in isolation. A better evaluation of expenses is necessary in the local government to better allocate the financial resources available to fight the current pandemic.

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.

Foreign Employment is not always viable



Bipin Shrestha, 35 years old, from Butuwal-11 Kalikangar, Rupan-dehi was studying bachelors in management. But he could not complete his studies. On one hand he had to continue his study and on other hand he had to look for a job as the economic status of his parents was weak. He did not see the possibility of getting a job here. Neither did he have the capital to start business. One of his brothers was already in foreign employment, so he thought that was the best option. Instead of doing nothing here, he decided to go for foreign employment to earn money.

Bipin went to UAE for foreign employment in February, 2016. His

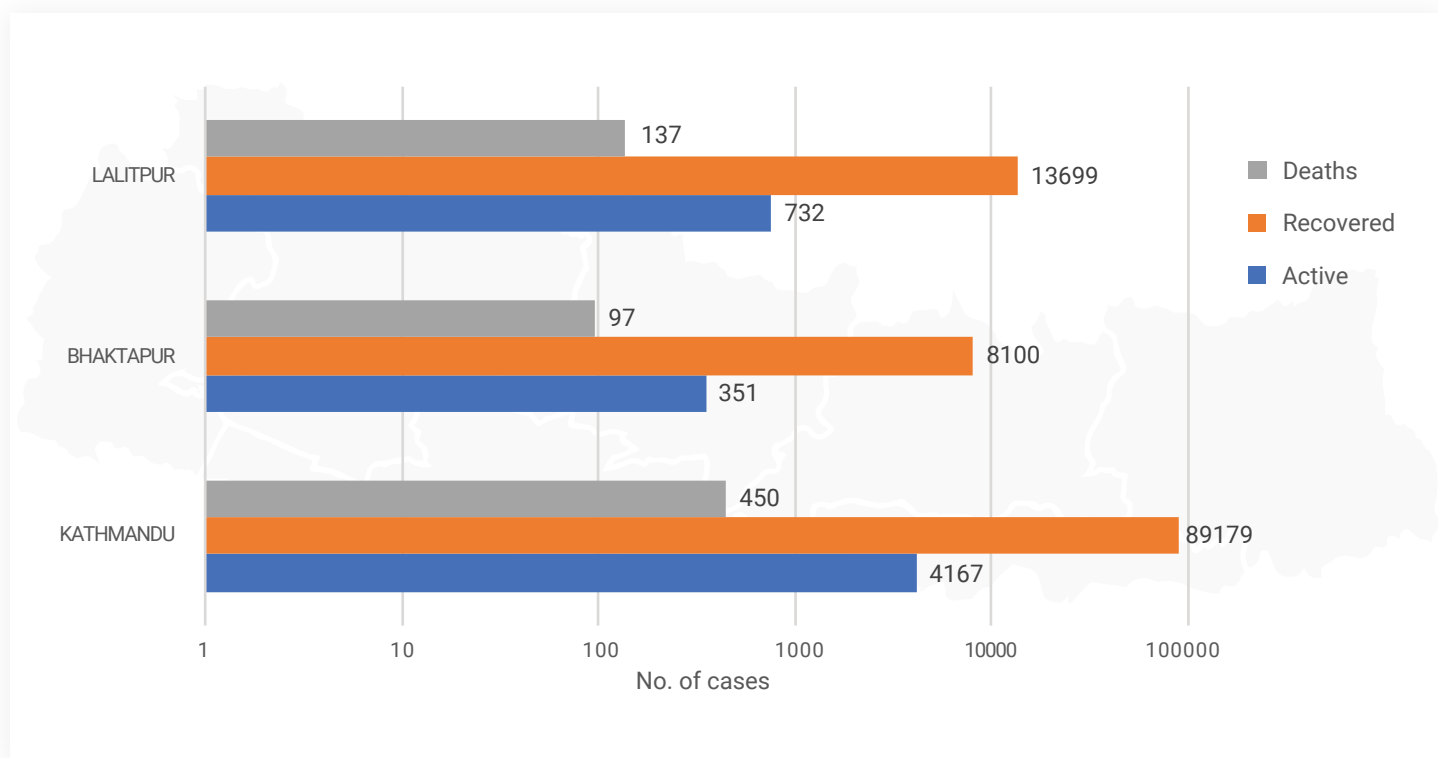
brother was also there. As he had gone abroad through relatives and the manpower he knew he got the job and the salary as per the agreement. He used to work in the agriculture and food packaging sector there. He received 1,262 Dirham per month. As he worked overtime he used to earn around 80-90 thousand Nepali rupee. He had to spend money for food while the accommodation was arranged by the company. He used to save around Rs.60, 000 per month and send it to home.

After the COVID, there was uncertainty about what will happen next. Time passed in this uncertainty and panic till October, then the company suddenly announced that they will reduce 210 Dirham from everyone's salary and no overtime was allowed. There was already the pain of being away from the family at this time of pandemic and in addition to that his earning was reduced. So he decided to return to Nepal. He thus returned to Nepal on 3rd December.

In this short time frame, Bipin earned more money than he had expected and learnt that one should not be dependent on foreign employment. Had he done something in Nepal, he could have restarted it after certain time being, but he had to completely leave the foreign employment and return. He has decided that he would not go to foreign country for employment. He would like to start a business and settle here, if he gets a loan in minimal interest from



Situation of COVID-19 Cases in Kathmandu Valley

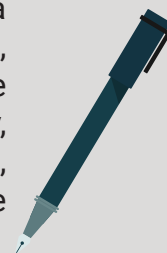


The above graph shows the situation of COVID-19 cases in the three districts of Kathmandu Valley. Currently, Kathmandu valley consists of 54 percent of total active cases in Nepal. Similarly, the districts within the valley contribute to 46 percent of all recovered cases by COVID-19 while contributing to 39 percent of total deaths due to COVID-19 in the country. Kathmandu valley is still the major hotspot of infection in Nepal. With the cities within the valley slowly returning to business as usual, the need for control is higher and more urgent.

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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