

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.

Summary of the expenditure made by the Foreign Employment Board with reference to COVID-19

The Foreign Employment Board has provided additional NRs. 50,000 financial assistance to the families of the workers who died and their final rites were performed abroad due to COVID-19



The amount provided as additional financial assistance:
NRs. 1,86,50,000



273 bodies were cremated in the destination country and 474 bodies were brought to Nepal and handed over to the concerned families

The expenses made for corpse management :
NRs. 31,92,95,000

The cost of transporting the bodies brought to Nepal :
NRs. 49,40,000

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

Nepal Update



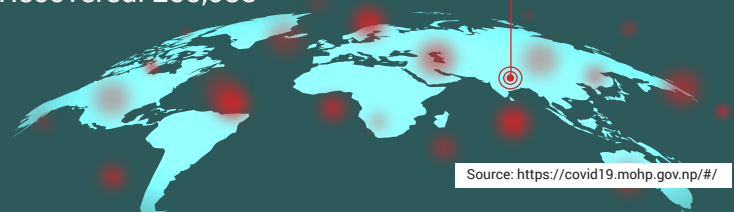
Distribution of nutritious food items to the pregnant and lactating women with babies under 1 year of age to increase their immunity against coronavirus in Mandan Deupur, Kavre.

Photo : [Keshav Raj Poudel](#)

Tested

PCR Tested: 1,952,903
Positive: 262,262
Active: 5289
Deaths: 1885
Recovered: 255,088

NEPAL



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

Rumors & Facts



It is heard that more than the actual unemployed the individuals with close connections get employment in the Prime Minister Employment Program. It is heard that everything is arranged internally.

For the Prime Minister Employment program, the municipality should make public the details of the list of unemployed individuals, the attendance details of the working group, the name of the worker receiving the payment, amount received and details of the expenditure and also conduct a public audit of the same public. Only after providing 100 days of employment to the unemployed listed in the first priority, the unemployed listed below that should be mobilized. If any irregularity is found in this regard, a complaint can also be lodged.

Source: <https://cutt.ly/1jo2edf>



Where should I contact to re-apply for business loans? How do I know which affected category my business belongs to?

The Nepal Rastra Bank has notified all the highly affected and moderately affected businesses from COVID-19 to re-apply for the loans in the concerned branch of the banks and financial institutions of class "A", "B" and "C". The 10 most affected sectors and 14 moderately affected areas will be eligible to re-issue the loans. Please see below the detailed information about the businesses eligible for re-issuing loans.

Source: <https://www.nrb.org.np/contents/uploads/2020/12/refinance-notice.pdf>



Has a provision about the family members to get pension in case of death of Nepali laborer working in Malaysia been introduced?

The employer contributes 1.25 percent of the worker's salary on a monthly basis to the Social Security Organization (SOCSSO), an organization established under the Ministry of Human Resources of the Government of Malaysia. 1,25,000 workers have already joined this program. In case of the death of the worker in this program, his/her parents, husband/wife and children under the age of 21 will receive 90 percent of the worker's salary monthly. There will be no additional labor cost for this.

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



It was said that farmers didn't get fertilizer on time, but the government now is saying that it has produced the highest ratio of paddy this year.

Yes, the farmers didn't get fertilizer on time this year. However, due to the lockdown and ease in finding the workers, paddy was cultivated in an additional 1 percent area compared to last year. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livelihood, the production of paddy has increased this year due to planting the seeds in more areas and hybrid seeds covering more than 95 percent of the area.


Source: <https://cutt.ly/Vjp3yAr>

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.



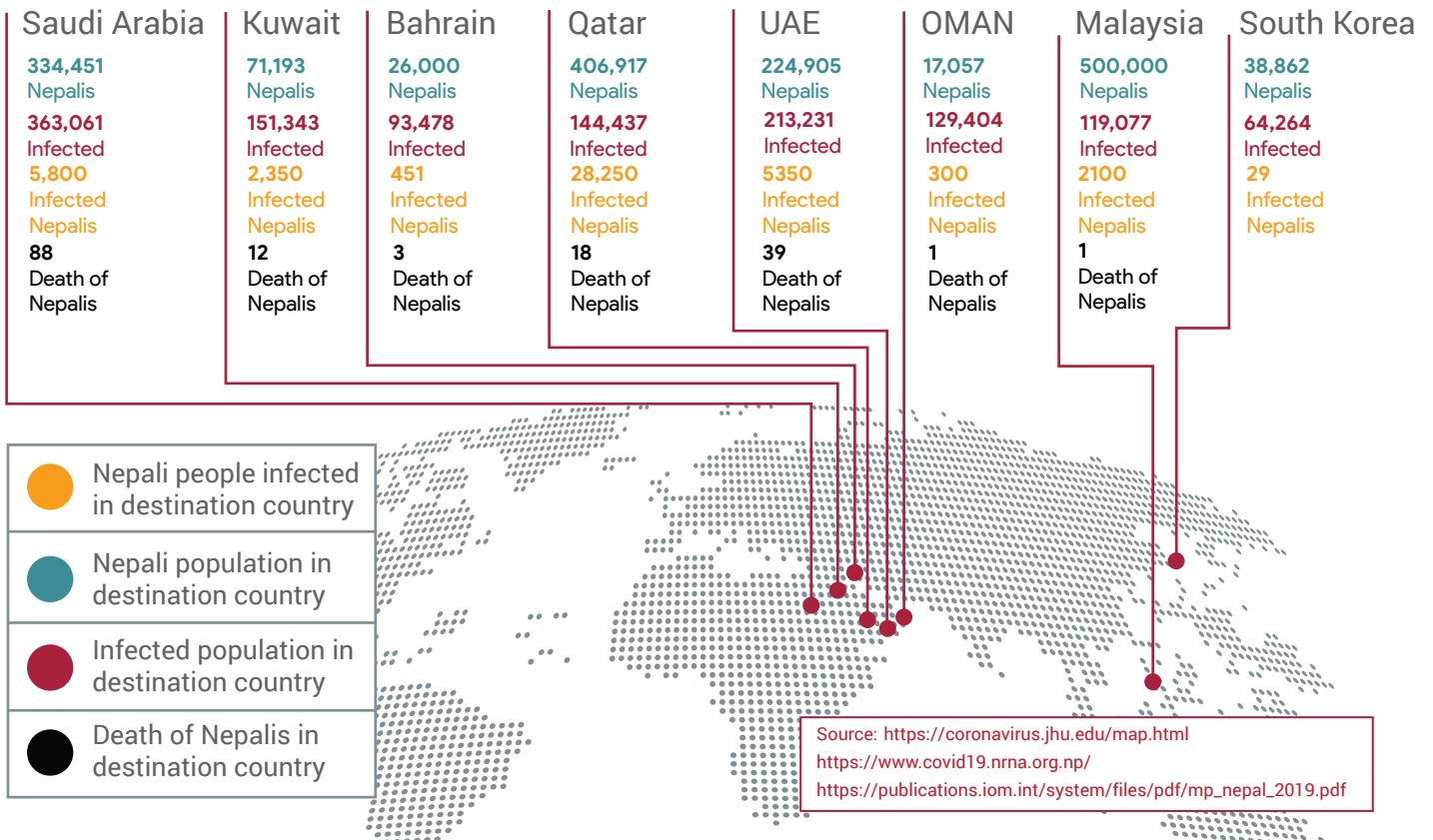
Toll-free **HOTLINE** on
COVID-19

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

Information related to border reopening in Saudi, corona vaccine in Oman and toll gate in the UAE

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has reopened all its borders (air, land and sea) that had been closed since 30 December. But, at the same time, it has changed some rules related to COVID-19.

It is mandatory for passengers arriving in Saudi Arabia from a country affected by the new variant of coronavirus to stay in home quarantine for 14 days.

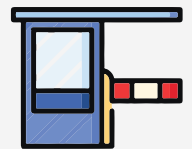


Oman

Vaccination against coronavirus has started in Oman. According to Oman's Health Ministry, no one receiving the vaccine has shown side effects until now.

UAE

A new tollgate has opened in Abu Dhabi. The cost of going to Abu Dhabi through toll gates placed at different places is 4 dirhams. However, this fee isn't charged on Fridays and Saturdays. The vehicle that will be used to travel through the road should be registered. This link can be used for registration <http://darb.itc.gov.ae>. Similarly, registration can also be done by downloading the DARB application on the mobile. The registration link is 100 dirhams. Of this, 50 dirhams will be used at toll. Meanwhile, citizens above 60 years of age and those with low income will be provided discounts on toll.

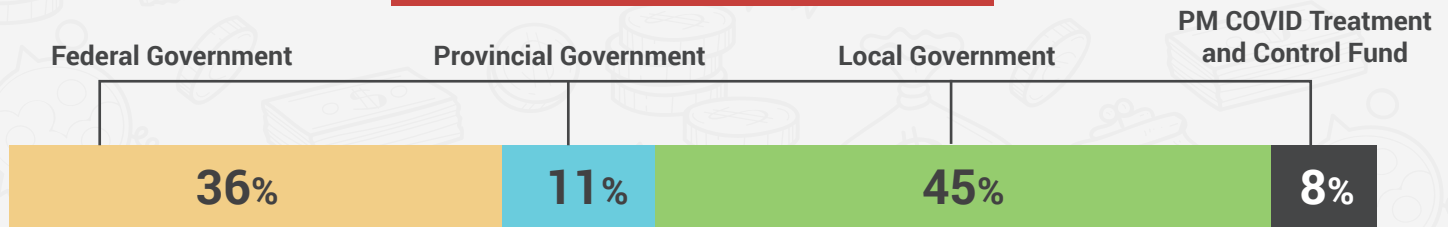


You can listen to our Facebook live at www.facebook.com/shramik.sanjal every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evening **UAE time (8: 00 PM), Kuwait (7: 00 PM) and Malaysia (12 Midnight).**

\$ 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

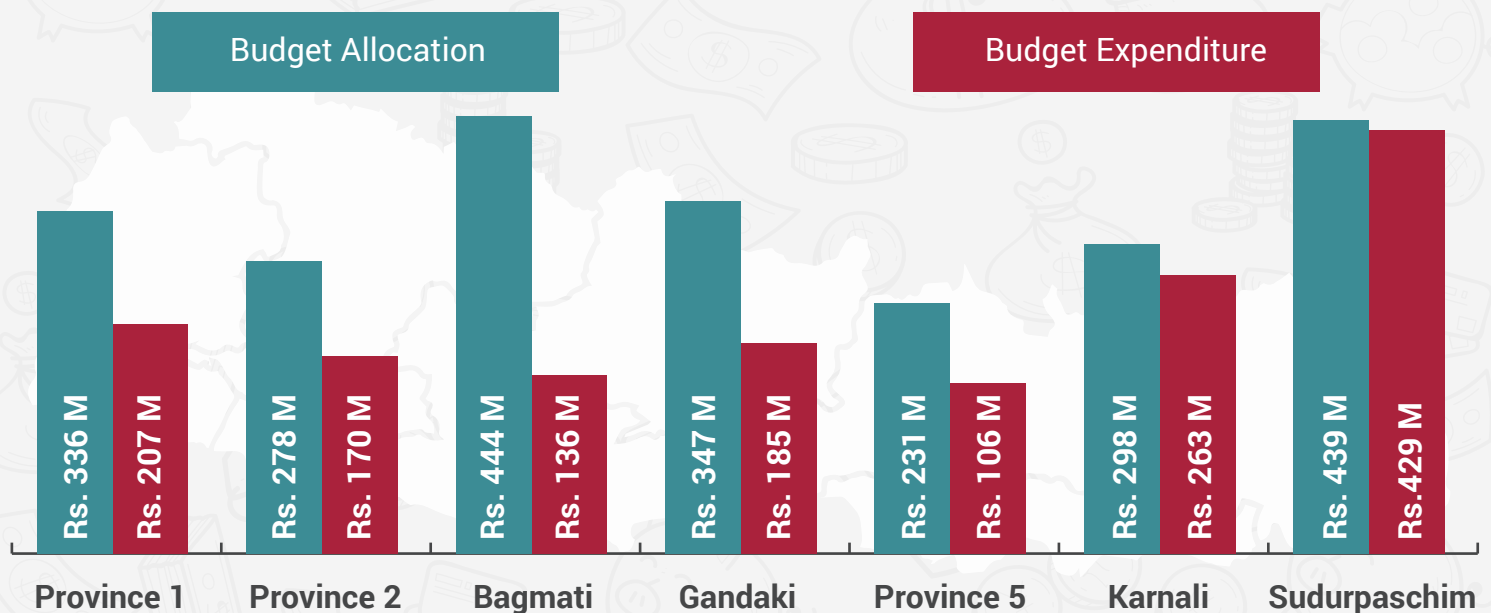


Quarantine Management
Rs. 46,946,000



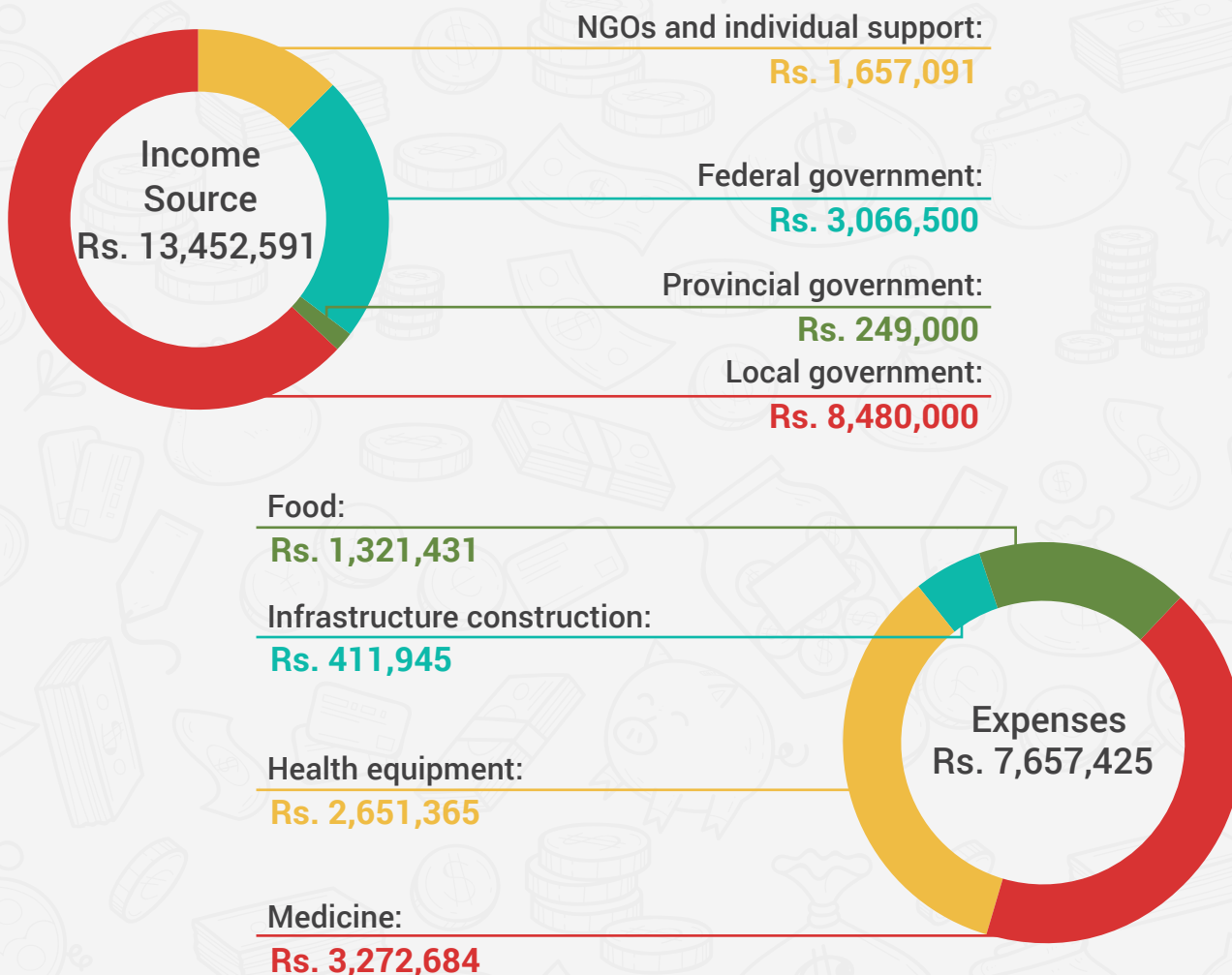
Other Expenses
Rs. 12,473,000

Expense made by Provincial Government



\$ Follow the Money

Income source and expenses in Simta Rural Municipality in Surkhet related to COVID-19 till Ashar 2077



Simta Rural Municipality has shared its income generation and expenses made till the Ashar of 2077 regarding COVID-19. Sharing their income generation source and allowing the ability to compare it with the overall expenses is a very good initiation made by Simta Rural Municipality and it shows the government is willing to be proactive towards building trust with its people. But, the expense heading not being clear and properly divided makes evaluation difficult. The majority of expenses are spent on health equipment and medicine, which is a very good use of limited resources. Also, only around 7.5 million NRS was spent from the available 13.4 million NRS on COVID response till Ashar of 2077, so a new detail on how the remaining budget have been transferred to be used in this fiscal year (2077/2078) needs to be shared by the government along with detailed expenses.

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 robbed Savitri of everything



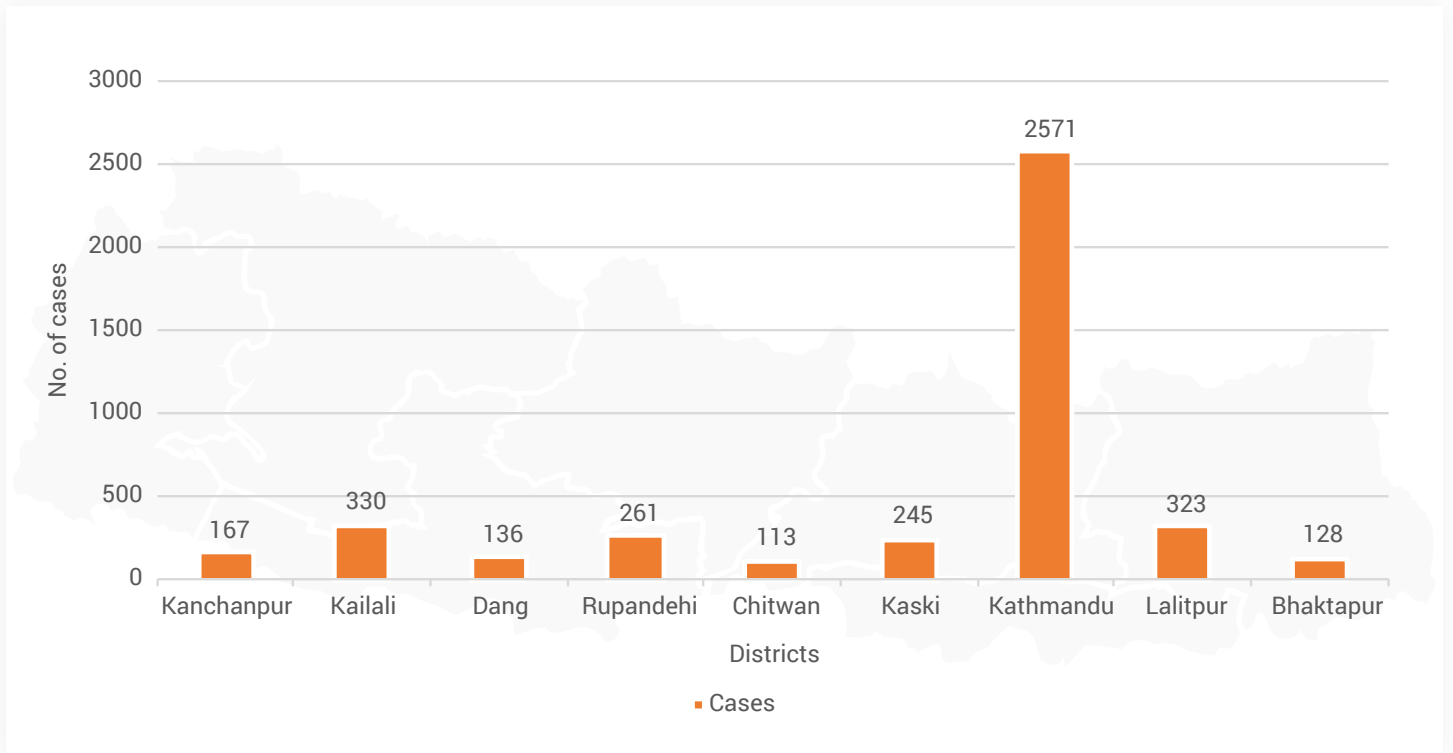
Savitri Mahar of Kohalpur Municipality, ward no 12 lost her hearing capacity due to mental disability at an early age. Savitri, who hasn't blended well on the outside due to hearing impairment, cannot even do ordinary writing. After getting married, her life was sometimes painful and sometimes joyful. Despite the circumstances, the difficulties of life seemed normal to her while living with her husband. Two daughters were growing up and a son was in her womb when she heard that her husband who had gone for foreign employment died in a road accident. This added further responsibility to her life along with the pain.

She now had to bear the responsibility of raising three children alone. She was wondering what should be done now. Meanwhile, a relative suggested that she can also go for foreign employment. There was no other option. She went to Kuwait from an illegal route through India to work as a domestic worker. Due to her mental disability, she was abused many times during her work. Savitri, who returned home after spending three years in Kuwait, did not want to go abroad again, but she was forced to go to Kuwait for the second time with the help of the same relative. This time, she had to work in Saudi for a year at her Kuwaiti owner's sister's home.

This time the situation wasn't as easy as the first time. She had been the victim of physical and mental violence many times, and on top of that, she didn't even receive a salary for a longtime. She started coming in contact secretly with the Nepalis living there and moved from her workplace. After working secretly for some time, she managed to return to Nepal with the help of the Nepali embassy there.

She knew very well that she would face financial problems when she returned to Nepal. However, this time she had vowed that she wouldn't go for foreign employment because foreign employment robbed her of everything. Now, she works wherever she can find work in the village. She doesn't know for whom the local government's employment program is targeted. Now, her plan is to save a little money, arrange a cart and sell mo: mo and chowmein on the road.

Districts with 100+ active cases of COVID-19 in Nepal

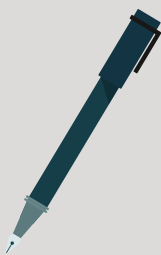


The above chart shows the districts having 100+ active cases of COVID-19. Currently, nine districts have 100+ active cases of COVID-19. Kathmandu district tops the chart with the highest number of active cases, Kathmandu district alone has more cases than the other eight districts combined. Nepal has seen a relatively less number of cases of COVID-19. However, Kathmandu continues to have a high number of cases and holds the highest risk of a second wave of infection.

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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