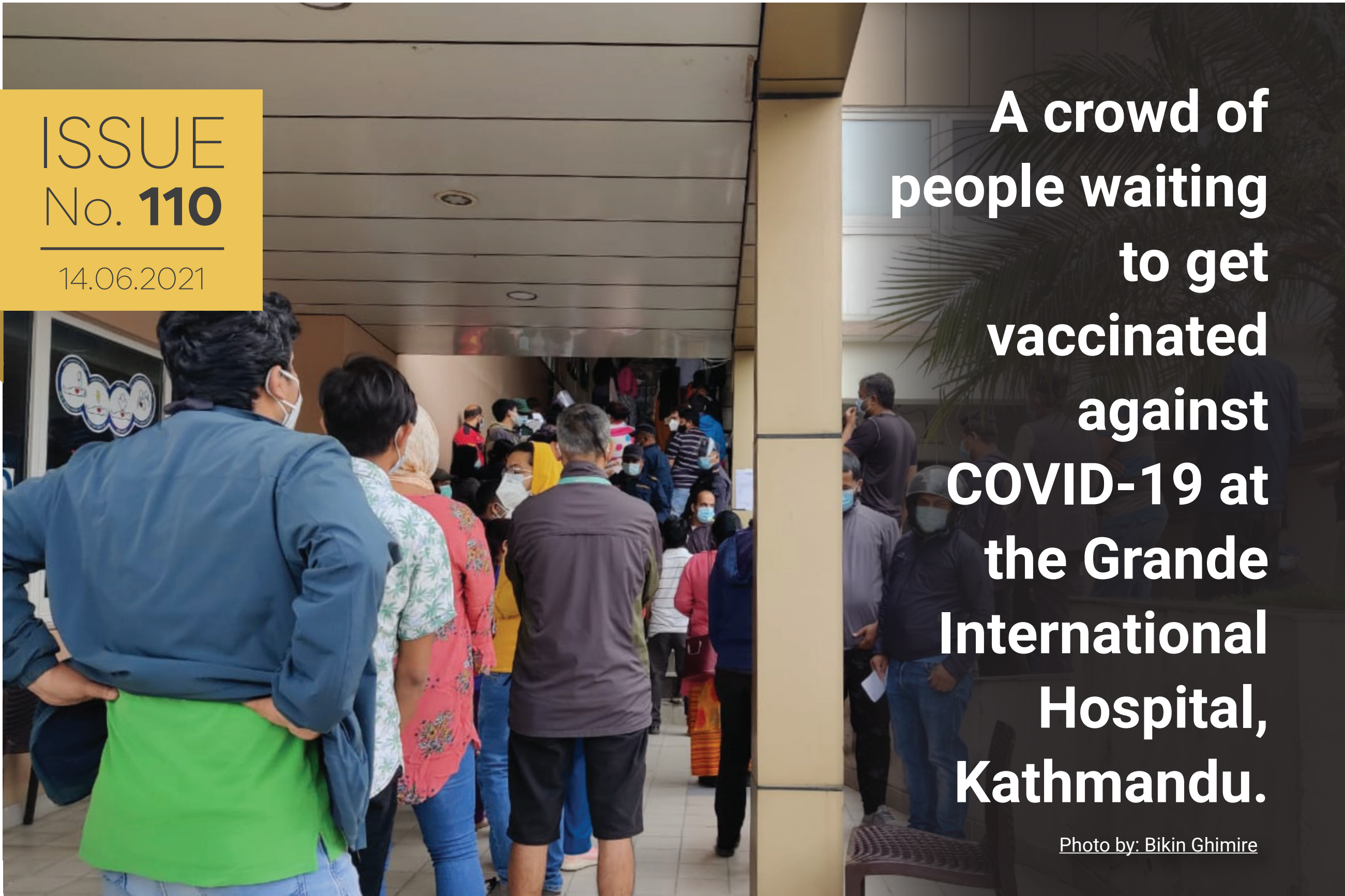


ISSUE
No. **110**

14.06.2021



A crowd of people waiting to get vaccinated against COVID-19 at the Grande International Hospital, Kathmandu.

Photo by: [Bikin Ghimire](#)



VACCINATION COVID-19

While people of age group 60-64 years were supposed to be vaccinated, only the age group 62-64 years got the vaccine.

[Click here for more information](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

Government states the treatment for the COVID patients is free, but the hospitals don't start treatment without payment.

The hospital can charge for the services only if the patient party provides written approval agreeing to pay for the services.

COVID Hero, Dr. Gaganraj Chaudhary

The health center where 10 patients rarely visited has more than 150 patients coming daily at present.

Protests from the health worker demanding salary, allowance and security during the lockdown

The government had made plans as early as 14th March 2020 to motivate health workers.

FACT SHEET

The government's planned budgeting for 2078/2079 in fighting COVID-19

Directly related to COVID-19

Procurement of ventilator, test kits, ICU and HDU equipments:

4 billion

Arrangement for vaccination:

26.75 billion

Allocation for COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment:

37.53 billion

Establishing 300 bed capacity infectious disease hospital in kathmandu and 50 bed capacity hospitals in each province:

1.3 billion

Supporting local governments to construct 5, 10 and 15 bed capacity hospitals:

6.15 billion



Indirectly related to COVID-19

Provision of free medicine for regular health programs:

5.6 billion

Capacity development of existing specialized hospitals:

2.2 billion

Health insurance program:

7.5 billion



Total budget for 2078/2079:

1647 billion

Percentage of budget separated directly for COVID-19: **4.6%**

Percentage of budget separated indirectly for COVID-19: **0.92%**

The annual budget for 2078/79 has earnestly considered the effects of COVID-19 and has made provisions accordingly. This has also effectively increased the total budget allocated in the health sector, which was necessary. The government has allocated 2.2% of the total budget for the control and treatment of COVID-19 and another 1.6% of the budget for vaccination drive. This is an important step in moving towards the healing phase from the current pandemic. Likewise, establishing hospitals, improving hospitals' capacity and promoting social health insurance all contribute towards strengthening our fight against COVID-19.

Source: [https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%20\(Final\)%20Full_20210530100738.pdf](https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/Budget%20Speech%20(Final)%20Full_20210530100738.pdf)

RUMORS & FACTS

?

The government says that the treatment of COVID patients is free of cost, but the hospitals don't start treatment without making a payment. What is the truth?

The government has entered into agreements with all government hospitals and some private hospitals (click the link below for list) for free treatment of COVID patients. These hospitals will be allowed to charge the fees only if the patients or relatives of the patient give a written letter that they are willing to take the services by making payment. Also, the PCR, remesiver, plasma therapy, CT scan and antibiotics for the patients in ICU aren't included in free services.

Source: https://mohp.gov.np/attachments/article/745/MoU_with_Hospitals_updated_List.pdf

No, it is not true. However, the procedure to receive a labor permit and travel to the airport has been made easier during the lockdown. Nonetheless, Nepalis, going for foreign employment in countries where vaccination has been made mandatory, aren't kept in the priority list of vaccination. According to the Ministry of Health and Population, vaccination is provided only on the basis of availability based on predetermined criteria set by the government.

Source: <https://cutt.ly/nnFOGB2>

?

There are rumors that the government of Nepal will provide vaccines to those who are travelling abroad for foreign employment with a visa, and the protocols of the destination country require them to be vaccinated mandatorily.

?

It has been 10 days since I was confirmed negative for corona infection. But I am again beginning to feel tired and weak. Have I been infected again?

It is normal to have body pain or fatigue even after getting rid of COVID-19 infection. It doesn't mean that infection has recurred and that you need to go to the hospital. However, if you find it difficult to breathe, feel very weak or have symptoms of black fungus or depression, then you should consult a doctor.

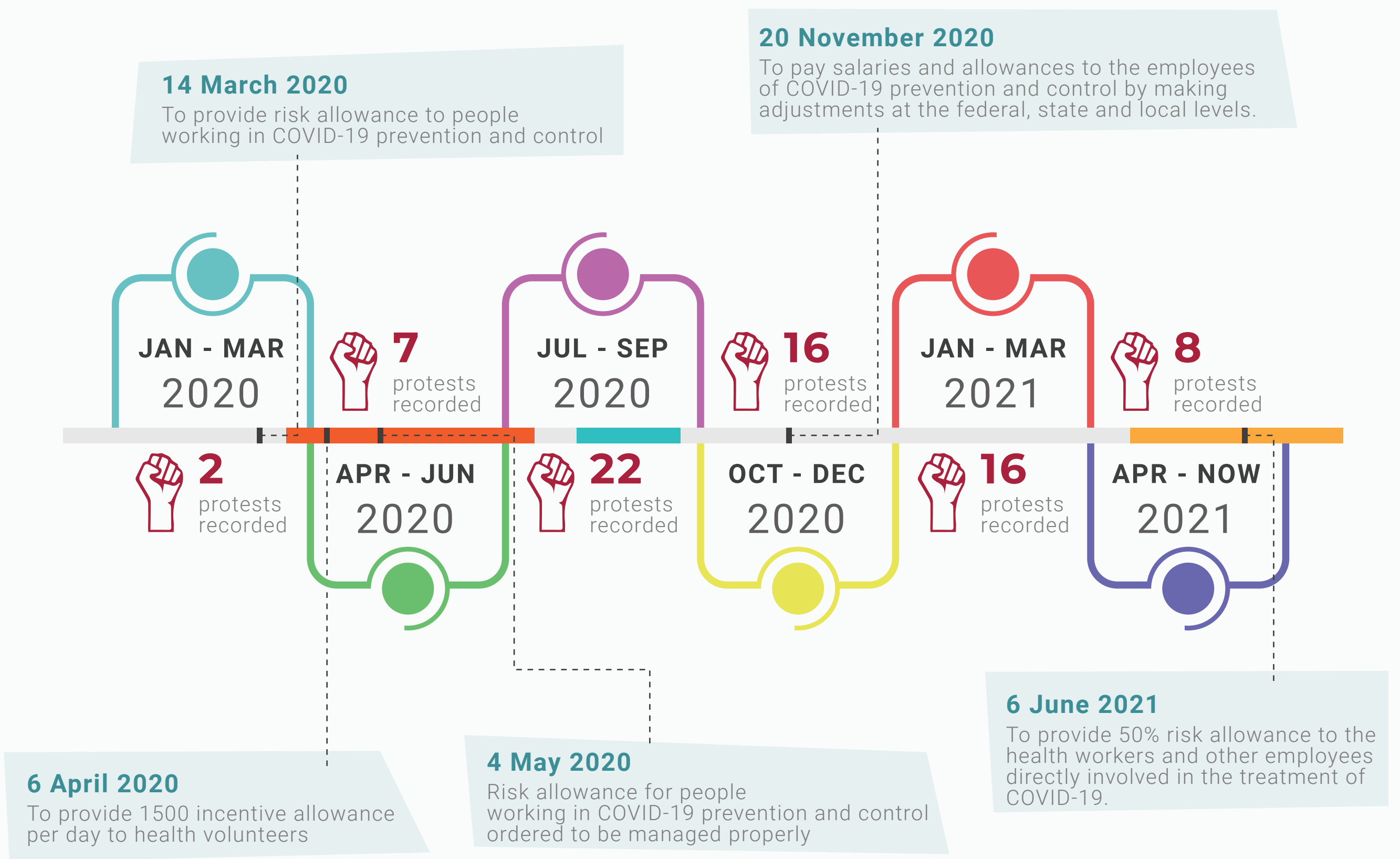
Source: <https://cutt.ly/snFJDg>

PLAN VS IMPLEMENTATION

Protests by health workers demanding salary, allowance and security



What is actually killing us? The virus? Or **corruption, lack of efficiency** and **honest leadership**?



Disclaimer: This is disaggregated data collected by compiling published reports of protests in online media, national dailies, district-level newspapers, and police websites. Therefore, the data reflects a trend rather than the actual prevalence of protests made by health workers during the period.

Health-care employees have been protesting for timely salary, allowances and better security since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. We can also see from the above illustration that the government had made plans to cater to health workers' needs as early as 14th March 2020. Yet, the protests didn't stop. Infact, the number of protests kept on rising, peaking during the lockdown period. Even with the government making decisions, why hasn't the number of protests subsided? Is it that the government's decisions aren't deemed enough by the protestors? Or are the decisions not being implemented even after over a year? Also, there have been many protests regarding the brutality against health workers over the duration and no government decision has been made to address that issue. How can the health-care system work effectively when the government can't keep the health workers safe?

Source: <https://nepalmonitor.org/>

Nepal Embassy in Oman to conduct mobile camp

UAE:

- Anyone in Abhu Dabi can get a vaccine against COVID 19. Earlier only those with Emirates ID could get the vaccine. Now, anyone under the visit visa can also get the vaccine. Book your name, as this facility is available even when you take your passport and visa that has expired.
- There has to be a green status in the Al Hosn Mobile App when you are visiting a mall, cinema hall or any public places at Abhu Dabi. In any other case entry to such places would be banned.
- As per the recent survey conducted in UAE, the mortality rate among those getting both the doses of vaccine is 0% . The research shows that the risks are less if one gets COVID infection.



Saudi Arabia:

From August 1, those who have not been vaccinated against COVID will not be allowed to enter any shopping malls. One must have at least one dose of vaccine to get an entry.



Oman:

The Nepal Embassy is going to conduct a mobile camp in Dhofar administrative area on 25th June Friday. The mobile camp will provide passport renewal, authorized inheritance, and other worker related essential counselor services.

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).



GROUND NARRATIVES

COVID hero Dr. Gagan Chaudhary

Dodhara Chandani Municipality is a local unit connected to Indian border. Most of the citizens here go to India for foreign employment. In the local unit where mostly Indian rupees are used, nothing is closed even during strikes at Nepal. This area, which didn't face any serious effects during the lockdown on the first COVID wave, observed high infection and death in the second wave. As a result, the people of the area started being cautious and followed the lockdown. Dr. Gagan Chaudhary is working at the health center of the Dodhara Chandani Municipality.

When the first COVID wave spread, there was a lack of resources and manpower almost everywhere. Moreover, as no one pays much attention to the area, there were more problems than elsewhere. The infection rate began to rise as those who had gone for foreign employment began returning home. The number of infected people increased day by day in this health center with severe lack of manpower. From bed and medicine for patients to PPE for health workers, there was scarcity of almost everything. However, Dr. Chaudhary didn't give up. He took initiative time and again to receive necessary medicines and health items and also to keep the morale of the patients high. He says,

“During the first COVID wave when there was a shortage of PPE, we provided services to patients by making PPE of the raincoat and plastic and wore gumboot. We were given a quarter near the hospital, but there was no time to go.”



No one who came to the health center during the first COVID wave lost their lives. Although the second COVID wave claimed some lives, the death rate here remained lower than in other areas. This is also why patients from other districts and municipalities come to the health center searching for Dr. Chaudhary. He has been serving more than 150 patients daily at the health center where not even 10 patients would visit before. The Sudurpaschim Province government has honored him as COVID Hero recognizing his work.

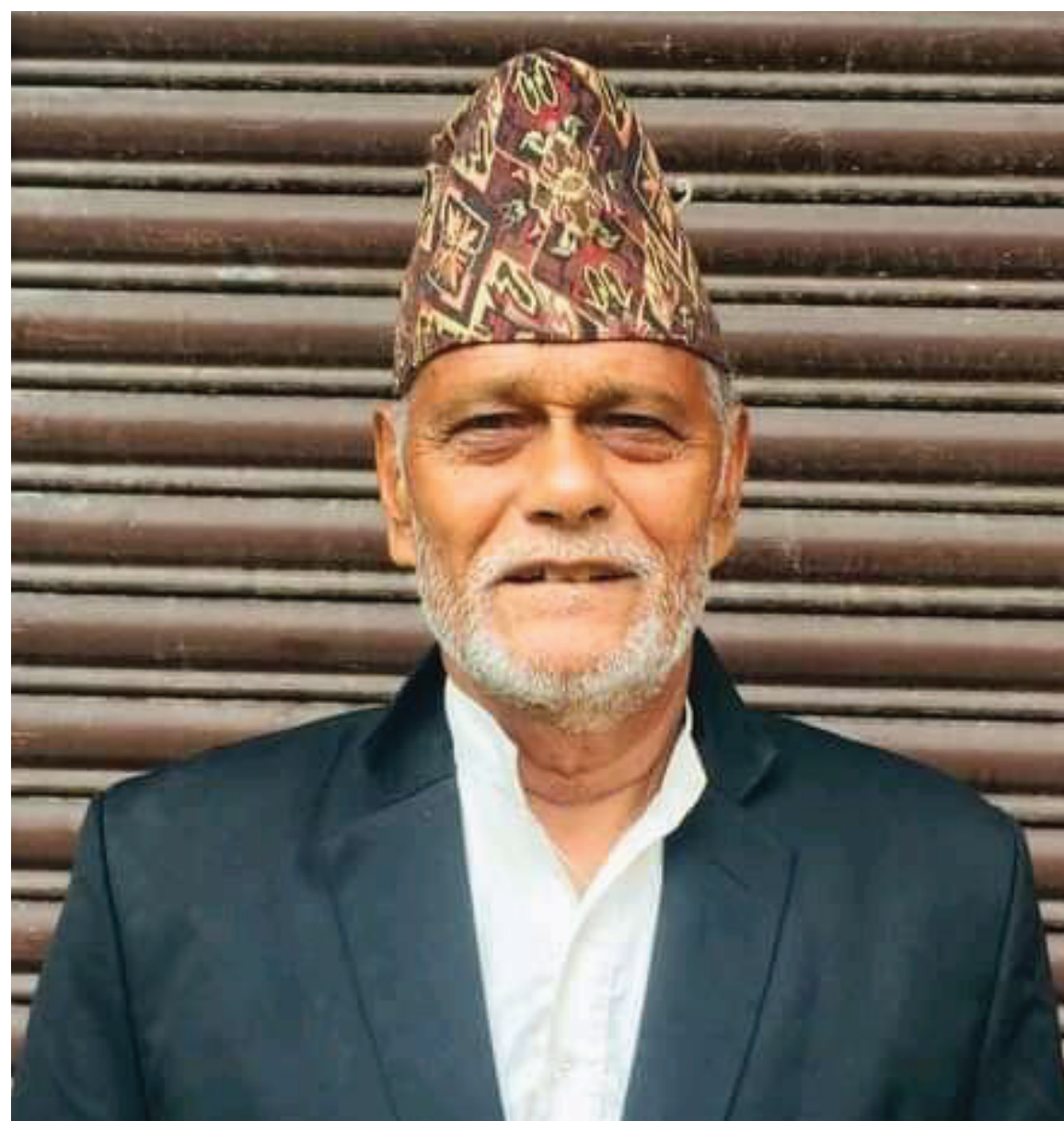


VOICES OUT LOUD

I also got infected with COVID last Kartik. I had to stay in hospital for 7 days for treatment as I had symptoms of pneumonia. I used to provide moral support when others were infected, but I was afraid I would not recover when I was infected. That is when I realized how scary this is. After getting both doses of vaccine I have felt a little secure. Vaccine is the only way to be protected from the virus. It is very important to follow the health safety guidelines till everyone gets vaccinated.

DR. BINOD PARAJULI

Senior pediatrician,
Aamda Hospital, Butwal



HIM BAHADUR KHATRI

Ward Chairperson,
Ward-19, Butwal

Last Falgun, I had to stay in the hospital for 6 days because of COVID infection. As I was infected I could not get the Covishield vaccine but now I have got the first dose of the Vero cell vaccine. If we do not make the vaccine accessible to all, there will be problems when the other wave arises. Vaccines should not be divided based on bureaucrats and political party preferences. Vaccines should be provided as per the guidelines. There have been warnings for the third wave of the COVID but the preparations are slowed. As a local representative, I give suggestions in the meetings, but they are not acted upon because of which I don't like attending meetings, even the sub-metropolitan ones.

FAIR FACTS

is a product of:



FAIR FACTS is an open platform that connects citizens, leaders and institutions; and exchanges authentic information to tackle misinformation and popular myths around Covid-19 in Nepal. The ongoing crisis of the Coronavirus pandemic demands quick, scientific and fair information around health services, livelihoods, and social security. With FAIR FACTS we build an ecosystem of changemakers and use the power of real stories and voices from all corners of the country for a disaster response mechanism that is fair and equitable.

Covid-19 is not just a health crisis but also exacerbates a lack of integrity and accountability in governance systems. To help beat this virus effectively, we track facts, share helpful information, and build unlikely networks.

Brought to you by:



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.

REACH OUT TO US ON

-  @CivicActionTeams
-  @civacts
-  @CivActs
-  Civic Action Teams
-  /accountability_lab

Email: civactsnp@accountabilitylab.org

Phone: 9851203219

