

Report on
Response to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Nepal Project



Prepared and Submitted by

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Submitted to

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Background

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important to practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).

Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

The first human cases of COVID-19 were identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019. On Jan. 7, 2020 Chinese health authorities announced they had isolated the pathogen. 2019-nCoV as it is called belongs to the coronavirus family, which includes SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) and MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome), and spreads via airborne droplets.

On Jan 9, 2020, Officials announce the first 2019-nCoV-related death, recorded in Wuhan. On Jan 13-15, 2020, health officials in Thailand and Japan announced that they have confirmed 2019-nCoV infections in travelers in their respective countries, the first outside of China.

The coronavirus has been declared a global emergency by the World Health Organization on January 31, 2020, as the outbreak continues to spread outside China. On February 11, 2020, WHO named the coronavirus disease (previously known as "2019 novel coronavirus") as Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

The World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11 declared COVID-19 a pandemic, pointing to the over 118,000 cases of the coronavirus illness in over 110 countries and territories around the world and the sustained risk of further global spread.

As per WHO, till April 11, 2020, 05:45 GMT+5:45 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases are found in 213 countries with 1,524,161 confirmed cases and 92,941 confirmed deaths.

Currently, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) case total and the death toll continues to climb. As per WHO, till 12 May 2020, 05:45 GMT+5:45 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases are found in 215 countries with 4,088,848 confirmed cases and 283,153 confirmed deaths. All the countries are fighting against Coronavirus disease and are trying their best to get control over the spread of this disease. One-third of humanity is a lockdown in their house and the world economy is at the edge of disaster.

Situational Context of Nepal

The first case of Coronavirus in Nepal was confirmed on January 23, 2020. A 32-year-old male Ph. D. student who returned from Wuhan, China on January 9, 2020, was detected positive and only showed mild symptoms and was subsequently confirmed to have completely recovered.

Testing of Coronavirus was started in Nepal on January 27, 2020, as National Public Health Laboratory had tested a sample of two patients suspected of coronavirus infection and admitted at Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital, Teku, Kathmandu.

The Nepalese government has declared a one-week lockdown of the country after health authorities detected a second COVID-19 infection on March 23, 2020. The 19-year-old student who returned from Paris, via Qatar on 17 March was detected positive.

Nepal has got enough time to get prepared to fight against Coronavirus disease (COVID 19) but due to different circumstances, the Nepal government was not able to make enough preparedness. Nepal is sort of enough lab facilities, lacks enough reagents to perform Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests, lacks enough Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) kit, lacks enough number of Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) required for front line health workers and better health facilities. Meanwhile, the Government of Nepal has taken initiatives of constructing isolation wards and quarantine bed in every district but the facilities required has not been up to date. Designated hospitals lack enough ventilator service and other facilities to cope with this pandemic.

The Kathmandu Post noted on March 20 that health workers panicked and burst into tears when a person suspected of contracting COVID-19 visited the Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital. A few days later, doctors and nurses at the Tribhuvan University (TU) Teaching Hospital threatened to stop attending work if they were not provided with proper protection.

After the identification of the 9th case of COVID-19 positive in Nepal, Nepal Government has declared to extend lab test facilities in all 7 provinces and till date in addition to National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) Teku, COVID-19 lab test through PCR is functional in 11 institutions of all seven provinces. As per the Ministry of Health and Population, until 12 May 2020, only 18,964 RT-PCR tests and 59,627 RDT tests have been done in Nepal.

As per the Ministry of Health and Population until 12 May 2020, Nepal has 217 confirmed cases of COVID-19 positive among which 33 has recovered & has resumed normal life whereas the remaining 184 are

under medical supervision in the designated hospital. Seventy suspected peoples are kept at isolation at different hospitals in Nepal.

Nepal went into lockdown on March 24 and now with the decision of the cabinet, it has been extended until 18 May 2020. Though the government of Nepal had announced to launch an economic relief package to those who have temporarily lost jobs or have been sent on unpaid leave and daily wage workers no such packages have been declared to date. Local Government and social organizations are supporting peoples in need but are not able to reach all needy peoples due to many restrictions. Therefore, it is necessary to reach daily wagedworkers, street children, and distanced peoples with a daily meal and other necessary support to bring their life into normal.

Introduction of Rotary Club of Kathmandu

Rotary Club of Kathmandu is a pioneer club of Rotary International District 3292 and is the first Rotary club to be chartered in Nepal (Chartered on 13th April 1959 A.D.). During its glorious 61 years of humanitarian service in Nepal, Rotary club of Kathmandu has served the community with numerous projects based on Rotary's six areas of focus (Maternal and child health, Basic education and literacy, disease prevention and treatment, peace and conflict resolution, water and sanitation and economic & community development). With the support and coordination of different clubs and organizations, Rotary Club of Kathmandu has and is organizing several Global Grant Projects, club to club projects, and district grant projects.

COVID-19 Response Fund

Rotary Club of Kathmandu has established a "COVID-19 response fund" intending to support the government and private sector to fight against COVID 19 pandemic. All the funds generated will be collected together and plans for its effective usage will be developed. Till this reporting period, fund required for the response activities has been supported by members of Rotary Club of Kathmandu, well-wisher Rotary clubs and districts (Rotary Club of Northbridge NSW, Sydney, District 9685 and Rotary Club of South Wagga Wagga and private sector (Panchakanya Group and Asterisk International Services Pvt. Ltd.). The activities to be performed under this fund were discussed and endorsed by a general meeting of the Rotary Club of Kathmandu whereas decided by a board meeting of the club.

Objective

The main objective of this response project was to support people in need and health care professionals of Nepal to fight against the emergency created due to COVID-19 Pandemic. The Specific objectives are:

1. Support at least 200 sets of PPE like a gown, gloves, N95 Mask, face shield, surgical mask, goggles, surgical cap, and sanitizer to health facilities in coordination with the Ministry of Health, ward office and concerned hospitals.
2. Supply food (required for a daily meal) to the disadvantaged people, daily wage earners, students, and the street children who are at high risk due to lockdown conditions.
3. Aware people on COVID-19 pandemic with Public Service Announcement (PSA), brochures, and social media.

Activities performed

- **Support to Primeminister Relief Fund**

During the 62nd charter day ceremony of the Rotary Club of Kathmandu organized on 13th April 2020, US\$1000 was handover to DG Rtn.Kiran Lal Shrestha for Primeminister Relief Fund of Nepal Government through Rotary District 3292

- **Relief Material Support (Food Support)**

1. Food support of net worth \$300 has been provided to the organization named EPSA Nepal, a group of disabled women.



2. On 11th May 2020, Food package support (Groceries) provided to 17 needy families of Bhaisepati, Lalitpur in the presence of PP Rtn. Dan Bahadur Chand.



3. On 10th May 2020, Food Package support (Groceries) provided to 90 needy families, Yangal club, newa Journalist, and child care home of Ombahal community, Kathmandu in the presence of President Rtn. Narayan Krishna Kharel and club members.



4. Food Package support (Groceries) provided to 100 needy families of Kathmandu Metropolitan ward no.11 through ward office. The handover of groceries was done in the presence of President Rtn. Narayan Krishna Kharel, district secretary PP Rtn. Rajendra Kumar Dahal and club members.



5. Snacks food package support (groceries) for one month provided to Srijansil Children Welfare Centre, Kadaghari, Kathmandu. 30 orphan children are residing in the center and are studying.



6. Food Package support (Groceries) for one month provided to Aasatit Child Home, Lalitpur. This support will provide food to 23 orphan children residing in the child home.



7. Food Package support (Groceries) provided to 50 deprived families of Devichaur, Godavari Municipality-7. The support was provided in the coordination of Godavari Municipality office and in the presence of Mayor Mr. Gajendra Maharjan, Ward Chairperson, Chief Administrative Officer of Lalitpur Metropolitan City Mr. Prem Prasad Bhattarai.



- **Medical Supply and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Support**

1. On 11 May 2020, 5 sets of PPE has been provided to Sahodar Hospital of Lamjung district. PPE has been handover to Dr. Homnath Adhikari by President Rtn. Narayan Krishna Kharel.



2. Rotary Club of Kathmandu has supported 5000 Pcs mask, 20-liter hand washes liquid, 120 Pcs sanitizer, and 500 pair of hand gloves through Rotary club of Gongabu for the frontline health workers, security personnel and media persons working at Bhulke, Triyuga Municipality of Udaypur district. After the identification of several cases in this area, the government of Nepal has declared the Bhulke area as the Red zone.



3. On 30th April 2020, Medical items like Foley's catheter, CIC pipe, Urine bag, etc. provided to lockdown hard-hit spinal injury persons residing at Nepal Disabled Association, Jorpati.



4. On 22 April 2020, the Rotary Club of Kathmandu jointly with Panchakanya Group handover two sets of swab collection booths to the Ministry of Health and Population in the presence of Hon. Health Minister Mr. Bhanubhakta Dhakal and Hon. Women, Children, and Senior Citizen Minister Mr. Parbat Gurung. The booth has been provided to health centers at Udaypur and Biratnagar by Ministry.



5. Supported 5 PPE set and 2 thermal gun to Telkot health post and Nagarkot health post.

- **Handwashing Station Support**

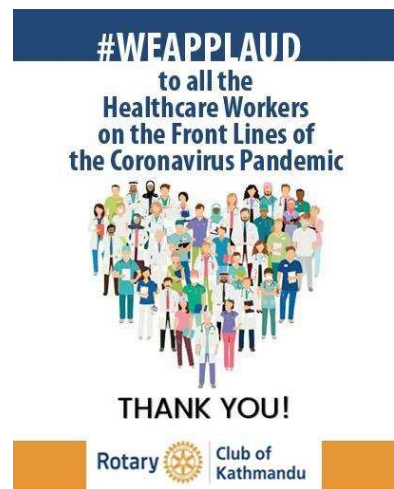
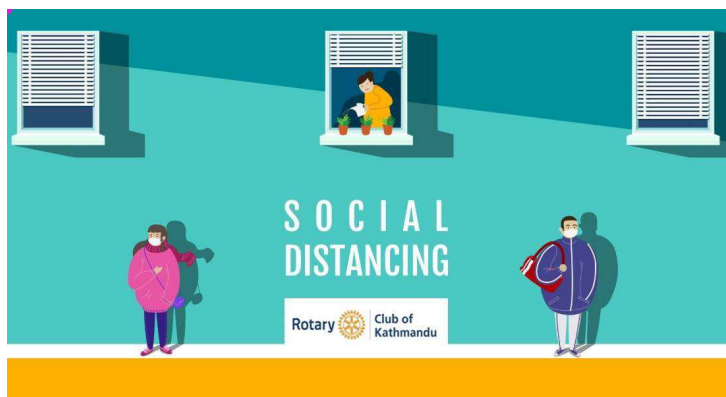
Handwashing with soap and water is the best way to stop transmission of coronavirus from hand, so it is important to aware people on the right way of handwashing with soap and facilitate them with handwashing stations. Handwashing stations at public places like municipality offices, bus stations, and hospitals can be transmission points of coronavirus due to lack of proper cleaning of tap and soap dispenser after each use. So, the Rotary Club of Kathmandu has decided to place mechanical handwashing stations in such public places where once can wash their hand without touching tap and soap dispenser with their hand, the station can be operated mechanically with foot presses.

1. On 11 May 2020, 2 sets of mechanical handwashing stations have been installed at Maternity hospital, Thapathali, and handover to the director of hospital Prof. Dr. Jageshwor Gautam in the presence of Mr.Hiralal Tandukar, ward chairperson of ward no.11 of Kathmandu Metropolitan City and District Secretary PP Rtn. Rajendra Kumar Dahal. One station has been placed at the Maternity hospital premise at Thapathali and next at the Nursing College of the hospital located at Kupondole. Hospital administration will look after the effective and sustainable use of the handwashing stations.



Awareness program

1. In collaboration with Radio Kathmandu 92.1 MHZ, Public Service Announcement (PSA) related to Coronavirus pandemic awareness is being broadcasted regularly from March to till date. Information about COVID 19, its symptoms, advice for being safe from infection, emergency contact numbers, etc. are being shared through PSA.
2. Regular awareness of COVID-19 pandemic is done through social media.



Planned Activities

Since cases of COVID 19 is increasing in Nepal and lockdown may be extended, we need to get ready with more support for the disadvantaged community with food support and medical support. Herein mentioned are some of the identified activities to be performed within a few days.

1. Online psychosocial counseling programs will be organized regularly where Rtn.Dr.Pradeep Pandey will facilitate psychological problems faced by people due to this pandemic and lockdown situation.
2. Two sets of Mechanical hand washing stations to be handover at Patan Hospital, Lalitpur on 14 May 2020.
3. Five sets of Mechanical hand washing stations will be placed in different places in close coordination with concerned ministries and municipality offices.

Activities will be identified and planning will be done together with ministry and municipality representatives.

Financial Details

In the first phase, we have received NRs. 1,152,350 support from our members, partner Rotary clubs, and partner organizations whereas till this reporting time has expended NRs.1,105,196.05 with the balance of NRs.47,153.95.

We are grateful to members of Rotary Club of Kathmandu, Rotary club of Northbridge NSW, Rotary International District 9685, Rotary Club of South Wagga Wagga, and all the supportive hands for their generous prompt support in this initiative and look forward to your generous collaboration and support in days to come.

Annex

Annex I: Food Support (Grocery) Package for one family includes

S.N	Particulars	Quantity
1	Rice	10 KG
2	Pulses	1 KG
3	Soybean Cooking Oil	1 Litre
4	Nutrela (Soya Chunks)	1 KG
5	Salt	1 KG
6	Sugar	1 KG
7	Soap	2 Bar
8	Beaten Rice	1 KG

