



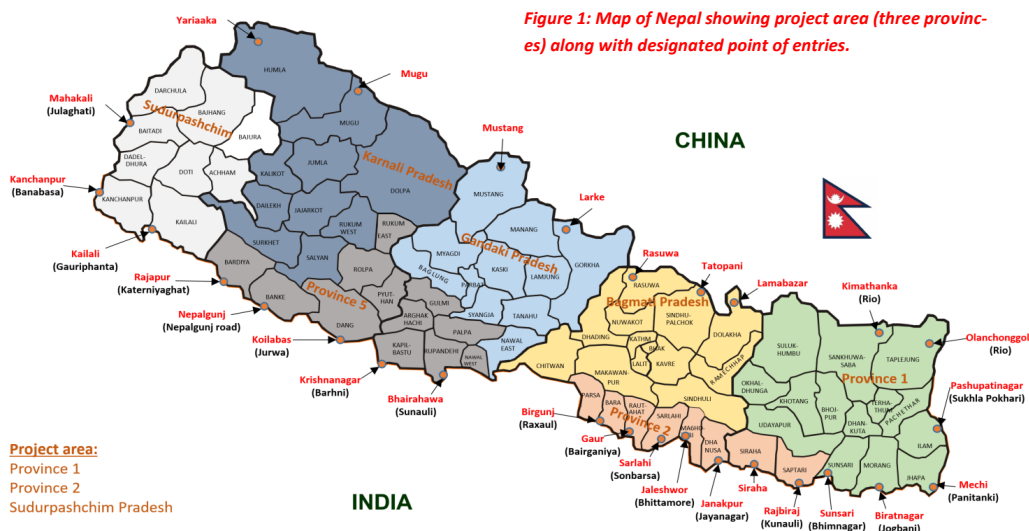
Situation Overview

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Covid-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEICC) on 30 January 2020, and characterized as pandemic on 11 March 2020.

In Nepal, the first case was detected on 23rd of January 2020. This case had a link to Wuhan province of China where the outbreak of the virus started. A returnee Nepali student from Wuhan had tested positive for the virus in Nepal. Since then, the number has reached 134 in total (11th May 2020), 88 are under treatment and 33 have returned back home. As shown in figure 1, there are altogether 9 points of entry (POEs) bordering to China and around 19 formal and more than 150 informal POEs with India. There is no movement across the POE between China and Nepal, however, it is estimated that nearly half a million returned from India and nearly fifty thousand through International Airport.

The Government of Nepal has taken series of steps to control transmission and mitigate the impact of the outbreak and adopted strategies such as: enforcement of national wide lockdown, closure of international border and suspension of all international flight, testing of suspected cases, isolation, treatment, contact tracing and management of quarantine centers/sites.

Figure 1: Map of Nepal showing project area (three provinces) along with designated point of entries.



IOM Nepal Strategic Approach for COVID-19

IOM Nepal aims to contribute to the overall objective of the IOM COVID-19 Global Preparedness and Response Plan to control further transmission and mitigate the impact of the outbreak. IOM believes that preparedness and response plans need to be responsive to population mobility and cross-border dynamics, and that inclusive approaches which take into account migrants, travelers, displaced populations, and local communities, and counter misinformation that can lead to anti-migrant sentiment and xenophobia are essential in the event of an outbreak.

Efforts are initially focused on preparedness and response, however, recovery is a major activity to address the socio-economic reintegration of the vulnerable groups. With this Preparedness and Response Plan IOM Nepal aims to contribute to the government of Nepal and national health partners preparedness and response efforts for COVID-19 to reduce associated morbidity and mortality and prepare for and address the crosscutting humanitarian needs of migrants impacted by COVID-19.

NEPAL IN NUTSHELL

Population: 28,982,772

Urban population: 19%

Population Density: 202 sq. km

Age Structure:

< 14 years: 31.68% (M>F)

15-24 years: 21.06% (F>M)

25-59 years: 38.59% (F>M)

>60 years: 8.67% (M>F)

International Airport:

Tribhuvan International Airport

Status: Closed

Points of Entries:

With China

9 POEs

Status: closed

With India

Formal: 19

Informal: tentatively 150

Status: Closed

Migration Status:

In India; 1.5 million (estimation)

Returnee: 0.5 million

Third Countries: 4 million

Returnee: 400, 000 (estimated)

COVID-19 and Situation of Nepal: (HEOC & NEOC, 13th May, 2020)

Total RT-PCR tested: 21,340

Total RDT tested: 60,319

Total patient identified: 219

Nepalese infected with COVID-19

abroad

Infected: >5,000

Death: 78

Quarantine and Isolation facility:

Total quarantine capacity: 29,820

Quarantine occupancy: 14,313

Total isolation beds: 3,155

Occupancy: 245

Total National ICU beds: 806

Occupancy: nil

No of ventilators : 343

Occupancy: nil



Proposed Response and activities implemented on COVID-19 till May, 2020

IOM has proposed strategic actions to support a coordinated prevention, mitigation and response efforts of stakeholders from federal, provincial and cross border to control the transmission and mitigate the negative impact in the society and reduce a huge strain in the health care system, aligned with Health Sector Emergency Plan for COVID-19 pandemic and Joint UN Country Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 Pandemics in Nepal:

The proposed actions are divided in 7 pillars:

Pillar 1: Coordination and partnership

- IOM Nepal is actively engaged to prepare the Country Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 led by United Nation Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) and has provided technical support in the cross cutting areas related to mobility and migration (health, protection, socio-economic recovery, CCCM, shelter etc.).
- Provided technical support to Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to develop Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for COVID-19 pandemics from human mobility perspective.
- Providing continuous technical support and advice to MoHP on issues related to migration health during the health cluster coordination meeting;
- At sub-national level IOM in Province 1 is the UN Led agency to represent UN at provincial level, provide weekly update to RCO office and lead inter agencies meetings at provincial level.
- Providing continue support to RCO office to conduct assessment quarantine sites/centres, and so far IOM has completed the assessment in 134 quarantine sites/ centres established by the Government of Nepal.

Pillar 2: Risk Communication and Community Engagement

IOM in coordination with National Health Education Information and Communication Centre (NHEICC)/MoHP has been supporting to develop migrant sensitive public health messaging. Following are the key achievements and initiatives:

- Developed one minute culturally and linguistically tailored animated video for facility based quarantine. The animated video is developed in six different languages: Nepali, Newari, Tamang, Maithali, Bhojpuri and Doteli languages; and has been broadcasted thrice a week through Image Channel Television.
⇒ The video can be accessed using the link: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AlaE2ujOWm1Jgbo3GyB_1O3hTEZ1lw?e=ytFkXn
- Developing one minute animated video culturally and linguistically tailored animated video on stigma and discrimination reduction. For this, IOM has been engaging recovered case of COVID-19;
- Mobilizing radio network to broadcast radio-jingles in six different languages on COVID-19 related stigma, discrimination and xenophobia reduction;
- Mobilizing radio-network to develop and air dedicated five radio programs for migration and migration health;
- Developing “One Stop COVID-19 Information Solution” for migrant living abroad. Dedicated webpage is in the process of design and will be launched soon.
- Covid-19 related messages have been regularly developed/contextualized/translated and disseminated through three social media outlets (Facebook, twitter, and Instagram)
- Six episodes of TV show “Talk of the Town”, have been broadcasted through the National Television, Image Channel Television, as part of ongoing media action program of IOM to support in broadcasting TV show on COVID-19 preparedness and response.

Pillar 3: Surveillance

IOM in coordination with MoHP and other relevant federal and provincial ministries and the local government has initiated the following interventions to strengthen the country's capacities:

- Conduct rapid phone survey in 753 municipalities (palika) in coordination with Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to understand the migration and migration health situation in Nepal;
- Conduct Population Mobility Mapping (PMM) in the three major provinces of Nepal in coordination with to identify all POEs and priority locations that are most vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19 and other health threats in result of trans-border flow of migrants, identify the health and operational resources by distributing and collecting data from participatory mapping questionnaire that contains 3 groups of indicators, with health being central in it. MoHP has also prioritized PMM as a priority intervention in its Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for COVID-19 Pandemic.



Pillar 4: Point of Entry

IOM in partnership with other UN agencies and local organizations will support the Government of Nepal to enhance the preparedness through:

- Make necessary arrangement to provide information for travellers including the display of the posters and IEC materials on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, hand hygiene;
- Organize orientation training to the staff and volunteers working at POEs for the migrant sensitive screening, data collection and tracking based on recommendation of WHO/International Health Regulation/PMM;
- Support three POEs for improving hygiene infrastructure and equipment.

Pillar 9: Protection

- Conducted a survey with Private Recruitment Agencies in Nepal and with Nepal Association Foreign Employment Agencies (NAFEA) members to better understand the Covid-19 impacts on migrant workers in labour Destination countries and PRAs in Nepal. The survey has been undertaken with an objective to address and assist for better protection needs of vulnerable migrants and their families in source and destination countries and also to assist the private sectors during and after pandemic;
- Disseminated Recruiter's Guidance for protection of migrant workers during the Pandemic targeting individual Private Recruitment Agencies and Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agencies. The document can be accessed using below link:
⇒ <https://iris.iom.int/covid-19-crisis-response>;
- IOM Nepal as the sub-group thematic lead on Migrants under Protection Cluster; IOM hosted and chaired the first thematic meeting on 29 April 2020 to provide an overview on migration and migrants thematic protection concerns impact on COVID 19; and including sharing from CSOs on situational updates/challenges of migrants in the destination countries and longer term reintegration planning on socio-economic recovery. As a result of the meeting the cluster members increased awareness on the ongoing thematic areas including challenges on migrant's protection and able to gather feedbacks and way forward in responding the migrants protection concerns in coming days.

Pillar 10: Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

- IOM as the member of shelter cluster is also an active member of the subgroup supporting the Government of Nepal in developing a checklist to ensure essential services and facilities while establishing a quarantine sites. The checklist could also be useful in upgrading the quarantine centers/ sites across 7 provinces.
- IOM as the provincial focal point for Province 1 supported UNRCO in conducting rapid assessment of more than 134 quarantine centres and sites established by the Government of Nepal in the Province.

Pillar 11: Addressing Socio Economic Impacts

- IOM Nepal is an active member of the Socio-Economic Recovery Cluster and has been working on the recovery needs of the vulnerable migrants.
- IOM Nepal is closely coordinating with the government authorities on post-lockdown economic reintegration support to the vulnerable migrants and their families.
- IOM Nepal will be conducting assessments in coordination with government authorities to map the skills of the returnee migrants, understand vulnerabilities and socio-economic needs of the migrants and communities to generate evidence based for reintegration programme and will support reintegration of the migrants.

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