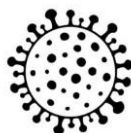


ALERT**COVID-19****actalliance**

Nepal

Bangkok, 11 May 2021

SITUATION

Second wave of COVID-19 in Nepal started from mid-April 2021 and the daily infection rate has intensely increased to almost 10,000 person per day from 300+ person per day within a month. There is no signal of slowing down of infection rate despite localized (district based) lockdowns called by the Government on 29th April 2021. Currently 72 districts (out of 77 districts) are under full lockdown situation.

According to the Ministry of Health and Population 4,084 deaths, 413,111 confirmed cases and 97,008 (89,914 are in home isolation) active cases have been reported until today, 11th May 2021. Infection in productive age group people is much higher than others (21-30 yrs-25.26%; 31-40 yrs- 25.12%; 41-50 yrs- 16.66%) and female infection is 36.10%. Bagmati, Lumbini and Sudur Paschim provinces are most affected. These provinces hold 61.5% of daily infection and death. (Source- <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/>). Infection rate of Province-1 and Province-2 has also started to increase. There is high influx of migrant returnees in Lumbini and Sudur Paschim provinces as they are bordering with highly infected areas of India and the infection rate is very likely to increase at an alarming rate. People living in remote/isolated locations, and poor, marginalized and PSN families have limited knowledge of COVID-19 precautionary measures, importance of vaccine and limited access to hygiene facilities.

There is high influx of COVID-19 patients in national and provincial capitals and district headquarters, where large numbers of active cases are isolated in their own houses. The hospitals in district/provincial centres are already running out of oxygen, medicines, and medical supplies, and it is expected to get worse and go out of control as the condition of in-house isolated case deteriorates and the need for medical assistance increases. Nepal has limited production of medicines and medical supplies and largely depends on Indian production, and the supply from India has been disrupted as India deals with its own Covid-19 crisis.

NEEDS

The COVID-19 has put the country in a state of crisis. COVID-19 patients and their family members in Bagmati, Lumbini and Sudur Paschim Provinces are in dire need of health care assistance. Hospitals in these areas need medicine and medical supplies particularly PPE for medical staff, oxygen cylinder, oxygen concentrator and ventilators. There is an urgent need to educate people on COVID risk prevention and importance of COVID vaccine and support PSN families to access vaccine. Vulnerable and PSN families need lifesaving assistances and migrant returnees need livelihood support. The support will be instrumental to minimize the loss of lives and ensure livelihoods of poor and vulnerable.

STAKEHOLDERS

Government of Nepal including national and international entities are trying their best to respond to this situation. Government of Nepal with its federal, provincial, and local mechanism is trying to address the health care needs. International organizations such as Save the Children, World Vision, Plan International, CARE, Action Aid among others have started small scale response to address COVID infection prevention and control. ACT Nepal Forum members have also started small initiatives on their own and are mobilizing some resources from their existing operation to address immediate health and hygiene need in their areas of

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operation.

At the federal and district level, COVID-19 response is being coordinated by COVID -19 Crisis Management Center-Operation (CCMC-Ops) whereas district response is coordinated by District COVID-19 Crisis Management Committee (DCCMC). I/NGOs COVID-19 response is being coordinated by federal government coordinating and regulatory entity Social Welfare Council (SWC).

ACT Alliance

ACT Alliance member have been working in Nepal since 1990s and ACT Nepal Forum was established in 2010. ACT Nepal Forum members and their implementing partners are assessing the impact of COVID-19 and the immediate needs in the communities in which each member is present. ACT Alliance Nepal Forum meeting held on 10th May 2021 agreed to produce an appeal to respond to this crisis.

ACT Nepal forum aims to start its response in the coming weeks and intends to reach at least 200,000 households in provinces 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. The initial intervention will focus on supporting the health centres on emergency health support materials and equipment, communicating to the communities on COVID-19 prevention and control, increase access to health and hygiene facilities including COVID vaccine preparedness initiatives. Community based psychosocial service (CBPSS) will be mainstreamed in its intervention. ACT response will also support government and community run health institutions to render quality and efficient health services to the infected cases. Furthermore, infected people and PSN families will be supported with nutritious food and referral systems to ensure access to health facilities and vaccination centres. Migrant returnee and poor families will be supported for small scale livelihood interventions. Cash based intervention (CBI) will be undertaken where feasible and applicable. Participation of targeted communities and community-based organizations including faith-based institutions will be ensured in all stages of project cycle management. ACT Nepal Forum and ACT Alliance will also engage in national and international advocacy for equitable and efficient vaccination.

A Global Coordination Call is being organized by the ACT Secretariat on Thursday, 13th May 2021 to understand the needs and coordinate a timely and efficient ACT response.

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