

WHAT'S UP?

NEWSLETTER, OXFAM IN NEPAL

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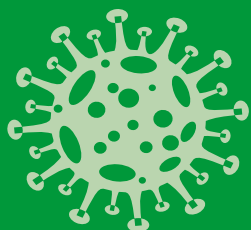


OXFAM



A representative from partner organization demonstrating proper methods of hand washing to the community member. Photo by Bagmati Welfare Society Nepal.

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**COVID-19
RESPONSE
SPECIAL EDITION**

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MESSAGE FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR

In the last few weeks, we have witnessed what for me is one of the most heartbreaking face of poverty – migrants displaced from their place of livelihoods, returning to their homes and families exhausted and stressed, placed in quarantine sites without even basic facilities for a dignified stay. Behind each of the thousands of individuals lies a story, a life, a struggle. In the last weeks, Oxfam has done its best to alert the humanitarian community on our duty to respond to this tragedy, trying to raise funds and to accelerate information gathering. We have limited resources – so I have been reminded of how important it is to rely on others to have an impact. In the newsletter you will

see how much our partners have achieved with the support of the COVID response team in equipping quarantine facilities, changing individual behaviors to protect communities against infection and supporting the most vulnerable families with cash. During this period, our regular work has continued, as this is usually a period of administrative tasks, spiced up by the start of a journey towards feminist leadership. Thank you for your commitment and enjoy your read.

SARAH BLIN
Country Director

Oxfam in Nepal's response to COVID-19

Oxfam has declared this emergency a Cat -1 emergency and will focus globally on its core mandate: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) bringing attention to the differential vulnerabilities of women and other marginalized groups and preventing inequalities to grow through this pandemic.

Oxfam is deeply concerned about how the poorest and most vulnerable people will be hit by the coronavirus –at home and in places where there isn't much protection from it spreading, medical care for people who are sick, or ways to deal with the loss of income.

Drawing on learning from Oxfam's responses to public health emergencies with a strong community engagement component, in combination with existing knowledge and

expertise in gender, public health promotion, water and sanitation, community-based protection and interpersonal communication and digital technology, we have been working to ensure that poor, vulnerable and marginalized people are protected and prevented from the impacts of COVID-19. We are engaging to support communities, with focus on women and vulnerable groups (elderly, person with disability, marginalized minorities), using a flexible approach to ensure that our support will be both preventive and responsive to evolving communities' needs.

Oxfam in Nepal with support from local partners, respective District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) and local authority; has been carrying out various response activities through different projects from the start of its impact in Nepal. Projects such as Emergency

Hygiene Promotional Intervention for Improving Public Health against COVID-19 in Saptari and Rautahat Districts has already been implemented to support communities to fight COVID-19.

Hygiene and Behavior Change Coalition (HBCC) project which will be implemented in ten districts; Saptari, Kanchanpur, Baitadi, Lalitpur, Sindhupalchowk, Banke, Darchula, Surkhet, Kailali and Dadheldhura through following local partners is also in an initial stage of project implementation. Local partners have been important orientations on Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) during COVID and its prevention. Apart from the response on health and hygiene sector, Oxfam along with its partner has also been carrying out Cash for Food Program in Baitadi district.

In collaboration with local partners, we are raising awareness amongst community people about the prevention of virus through various Information, Educational and Communication materials in line with Ministry of Health and Population of Government of Nepal. Miking of the messages in the communities is being done for sensitization. Radio jingles and TV Public Service Announcements in local languages are being played for greater awareness amongst community people.

In collaboration with local partners, Oxfam has distributed hand hygiene products and Personal Protective Equipment at the municipality level to further support health posts, isolation centers, quarantine centers and security agencies. Quarantine centers and isolation centers has been supported with pedal operated handwashing stations, renovation of toilets and construction of temporary bathing unit. Along

with the hand washing stations, the centers were also supported with temporary toilets, water supply, points of water, drinking water at two holding center in Rautahat and Sarlahi to support migrant population. Altogether, thirty-five quarantine centers, six isolation centers and 12 health care facilities has already been supported for its impactful functioning.

Oxfam in Nepal has been able to reach 33,962 population (6,709 female, 25,260 male population and 1,993 children) as of 24 June 2020.

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Quarantine centers and isolation centers has been supported with pedal operated handwashing stations, renovation of toilets and construction of temporary bathing unit. Along with the hand washing stations, the centers were also supported with temporary toilets, water supply, points of water, drinking water at two holding center in Rautahat and Sarlahi to support migrant population.

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PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, HAND HYGIENE PRODUCTS AND GENERAL SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

							
765 Apron Set with Goggles	78 Boots	410 Disposal Caps	655 Disposal gloves	1000 Gloves	1438 KN 95 Masks	8139 Surgical Masks	213 Reusable Gloves

HAND HYGIENE PRODUCTS

						
5 Foot Operated Hand Wash Stations 1000 Lit	50 Foot Operated Hand Wash Stations 500 Lit	2643 Hand Sanitizers 100 ml	2100 Hand Sanitizers 500 ml	1251 Hand Wash liquid type	248 Hand Washing Soaps	27156 Soap Cases

GENERAL SUPPLIES

					
60 Air Fresheners	494 Bed Sheets	4 Chargeable Bulbs	66 Brooms	270 Combs	1185 Detergent Soaps
					
35 Commode Chairs	5 OPC Cements	1105 Disinfectant Chlorine Solution	2337 32 liters Buckets with taps and Lids	359 Infrared Thermometers	435 Mattress
					
51 Mops	300 Mosquito Nets	896 Mugs	314 Nail Cutters	146 Phenyl	111 Plastic Bottles
					
238 Plastic KG	447 Polythene Big Bags	1161 Polythene Small Bags	715 Sanitary Pads	180 Pillows	531 Slippers
					
745 Towels	51 Spray Tanks	91 Toilet Brushes	245 Toilet Cleaners	682 Toothbrushes	682 Toothpastes
					
365 Solid Waste collection Bins	24 Trays	281 Woolen Blankets	12 Temporary Toilets	6 Temporary Bathing Units	1 Permanent Toilet Units

Protecting communities from COVID-19

Under the Poul Due Jensen (PDJ) Foundation supported project Emergency Hygiene Promotional Intervention for Improving Public Health against COVID-19, Oxfam with support from local partners Rural Development Center Nepal (RDC) and Bagmati Welfare Society Nepal (BWSN) has been carrying out the COVID-19 response activities since the start of its impact. Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment such as gloves, PPE sets, Infrared thermometers, KN95 masks, surgical masks and hygiene and sanitation related items such as hand liquids, soaps, waste bins, disinfectant phenyl, disposal caps were distributed along with general protective products such as, mosquito nets, slippers, trays, bedsheets, tents, to the communities of Rautahat and Sarlahi.



A representative from partner organization showing the liquid to use while hand washing. Photo by BWSN



Mobile vehicle playing the Public Service Announcement on COVID-19 preventive measures and symptoms. Photos by RDC Nepal.

Renovations of existing toilets and bathrooms in quarantine center was also carried out. Information dissemination through Radio, Television, mobile vehicle is ongoing. Oxfam in collaboration with local partners also supported in establishment of health desks at quarantines to provide information to people staying in center as well as for community members. It was also ensured that quarantines have properly maintained Water, Sanitation and Hygiene facilities with supply of water.

Solid waste management in the centers was also ensured through IEC materials posted on the walls of the center, advising people to throw waste in respective bins and following proper handwashing methods.

This project will be concluding in the end of July. However, PDJ Foundation has agreed to divert additional funds for further response support to the migrant workers for July and August focusing on Rautahat, Sarlahi and Kanchanpur districts.

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The establishment of health desk has helped in removing false information about COVID-19. We can get information about how to protect ourselves from COVID-19. It also provides families of people staying at isolation centre the required information about checkups.

Ram Chandra Chaudhary
Chairperson, Chandranigapur
Municipality, Rautahat

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I would like to thank BWSN and Oxfam for providing personal protective products and hygiene products during this crisis. They have been providing their support in other disaster related crisis as well and they have continued to extend their support this time too. I would like to thank them on behalf of all the people of municipality.

Manoj Kumar Devkota
Mayor of Isworpur
Sarlahi

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Pedal operated handwashing stations



A community member washing his hands in a newly installed hand washing station. Photo by RDC Nepal.

Oxfam in Nepal in coordination with local partners and stakeholders have installed 35 pedal operated handwashing stations in different quarantine centers, isolation centers, government offices and health care facilities. In Sarlahi, 23 of such handwashing stations has been established, whereas, in Rautahat, there are 32 handwashing stations. These stations have been established with regular supply of water, hand washing liquids and sanitizers (for three months) to respond for preparedness against possible outbreak of COVID-19.

Message on handwashing is displayed at the station for mass awareness. Health workers are oriented on hand hygiene by local partners to further disseminate messages to people staying at the centers. Oxfam has been supporting altogether 55 quarantine centers in Rautahat and Sarlahi districts. In addition to this, three toilets and one bathroom has been constructed in isolation center of Gauri Shankar Campus of Gaur Nagarpalika in Rautahat district. The facilities have been handed over to local authorities and they will be monitoring its operation and maintenance.

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I would like to thank BWSN for establishing fifteen hand-washing station around the district along with other important protective products to help the community people.

Methur Chaudhary
Chairperson, DDMC

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Support to entry ports in Sarlahi and Rautahat



Handwashing station established in the entry ports in Nepal-India border for pedestrians. Photo by RDC Nepal



Construction of toilets and bathing facilities. Photo by BWSN

Three pedal operated hand washing stations in entry port of Sarlahi and one in Rautahat was installed with regular supply of water to facilitate and support with hand washing practices of the people entering the country from India.

Additionally, installation of six temporary toilets at Sarlahi and two in Rautahat is also ongoing.

“ This has been a very good idea to protect people from the virus. This modern handwashing station has helped to washing hands properly before entering. For this, I would like to thank RDC Nepal and Oxfam.

Ram Chandra Chaudhary
Chairperson
Chandranigapur Municipality, Rautahat

Hygiene and Behavior Change Coalition (HBCC) programme kick starts

A one-year program, the Hygiene and Behaviour Change Coalition (HBCC) has progressively started with aims to sustain improvements in hygiene and health behaviors to limit the spread of COVID-19 and to promote gender norms that contribute to the equal distribution of hygiene and health related care work among women and men. This programme is part of the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) and Unilever's initiative to urgently tackle the spread of coronavirus, which is bringing together a coalition of UK and international NGOs to support activities including hygiene behaviour change programmes.

In Nepal, this program is being implemented in 10 districts; Saptari, Kanchanpur, Baitadi, Lalitpur, Sindhupalchowk, Banke, Darchula, Surkhet, Kailali and Dadeldhura through following local partners:

1. Koshi Victim Society (KVS),
2. National Environment and Equity Development Society (NEEDS),
3. Rural Development and Environment Management Society (RUDES),
4. Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO),
5. Janahit Gramin Sewa Samittee (JGSS),
6. Bheri Environmental Excellence Group (BEE Group),
7. SANKALPA,
8. Environment Development Society (EDS)
9. FAYA and
10. Rural Women's Development and Unity Centre (RUWDUC) respectively.

Agreement with partners has already been done and they were provided with necessary inductions about the project. They are also oriented about Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to be followed during COVID situation. Apart from that, partners have also been provided with orientation on Mum's Magic Hand approach for hand washing behavior change and two-day training on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning and Community perception tracker.



More on emergency hygiene promotion activities

Oxfam in Nepal with funding support from European Commission Civil Society organization (ECSSO) is implementing Enhancing CSOs roles as key development partners for climate resilient policies and practices in province 2 project in Rautahat and Saptari district in collaboration with local partners. This project will support in ensuring a) frontline workers are adequately protected and able to respond to the needs of affected population; b) handwashing facilities allow for the systematic application of hygiene measures in epidemic hotspots; and c) at risk and vulnerable population understand and apply the five basic rules for prevention of COVID 19.

Through the project, it is also raising awareness amongst community people about the prevention of virus for which various Information, Educational and Communication materials in line with government is being distributed. Miking of the messages in the communities is being done for sensitization. Radio jingles and TV Public Service Announcements in local languages is being played for greater awareness. So far, it has directly supported 7,091 community people and have reached 200,000 community people through Miking, FM radio and help desk.

Cash for food programme in Baitadi

Oxfam in Nepal with the support of local implementing partners Rural Development and Environment Management Society (RUDES) in Baitadi is carrying out Cash for Food program for most vulnerable communities of Dasharathchand and Patan municipality and Shivanath Nath Rural Municipality.

Under the first tranche, 137 households have already received cash transfer, and the next tranche will cover the remaining households. Altogether 2,980 people will be benefited through this cash support program. Considering the COVID-19 situation, communities will receive grant amount through digital finance service providers in close coordination with local cooperatives. The local communities were previously using cooperative remits while they were working as migrant in India. Oxfam in Nepal has identified all the list of beneficiaries and approval from local government and DDMC.

Health and hygiene promotion plan to support migrants

Oxfam in Nepal has submitted CAT fund to Global Humanitarian Team to address the crisis facing migrants in quarantine and isolation centers. This project aims to cover 3,000 households in Kanchanpur district of Nepal which lies near to Indian borders.

Local government and vulnerable communities will be consulted for hand hygiene promotion, to address the protection issues and access to safe water and sustainable water, sanitation in holding centers, Quarantine and isolation centers while implementing the project.

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Because of various hygiene and sanitation related awareness raising programs organized in our community time and again, we are aware of proper hand-washing methods and also practicing the same in fear of virus transmission.

Shivnath Shah
Chairperson
Drinking Water Commission
Pidari

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Hygiene and sanitation items provided to quarantine centers by Oxfam and BWSN as made it easier for people to stay at quarantine centre. We have, so far, not seen community transmission yet. Because of the awareness, community people are prepared and have less fear.

Mahendra Shah
Health Post Incharge
Haripur – 9, Pidari

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PHOTO FEATURE



Photos by RDC Nepal and BWSN

SIX STEPS OF PROPER HANDWASHING



❶ Rub palms together



❷ Rub the back of both hands



❸ Interface the palms and fingers and rub the hands together



❹ Rub fingertips of right hand on left palm



❺ Rub fingertips on left hand on right palm



❻ Rub thumb in a rotating manner followed by the area between index finger and thumb.

How to protect ourselves from COVID-19

- Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- Avoid unprotected contact with live wild or farm animals
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or flexed elbow
- Avoid close contact with those who show signs of flu

You can help Oxfam save lives

In the face of global pandemic, it does not matter where we come from, what language we speak, or our cultural background. COVID-19 reminds us that we all deserve to be treated equally and have the same basic rights. When an emergency happens, Oxfam is ready to respond. We work with our partners on the ground to save lives and reduce future risks. With your support, we help make sure that people who have lost everything have access to immediate life-saving essentials.

DONATE NOW

If you have any concerns or queries regarding Safeguarding, please contact the following number **16600150076** or send email at **whistleblowing@oxfam.org.uk**

FEEDBACK?

Do you have programme updates, stories, pictures, videos to share? Or, any important questions on the newsletter?

Please contact: **Sofila Vaidya, Media and Communication Officer** at **svaidya@oxfam.org.uk**

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