



## NRNA Launches the Oxygen Distribution Initiative

As many nations are struggling through the Second wave of COVID 19 Pandemic, Nepal also got hit by the second wave of corona virus starting from April 2021. The Second wave was fatal and spread rapidly in the capital, Kathmandu, as well as in other parts of the country, which led to a health crisis in Nepal. The daily infection rates were alarming and hospitals and health posts were flooded by the infected persons. There was lack of beds, essential health services, Oxygen and the ICU for the patients.

To cope with the immediate need, NRNA started the initiative **"Send Oxygen to Nepal and Save the Life of Near and Dear Ones"** and appealed to the NRN community for active support. NRNA requested its members



to unite and support any amount of fund or materials to address the oxygen crisis in Nepal to save life of fellow Nepalese.

Straightaway, NRNA received prompt and positive response from National Coordination Councils (NCCs) and friends of Nepal, individuals and NRNs. The fundraising for the initiative is ongoing, so far around 4.8 Crore Nepali Rupees has been raised. As the part of the initiative, NRNA with active support and contribution from the Middle East, especially NCC Oman, donated 560 medical oxygen cylinders and accessories to the Nepal Government on 21 May 2021. NRNA, with the contributions from NCC UK, Australia, Canada, Germany, South Korea, Italy and China purchased 433 oxygen concentrators from China, the consignment was delivered to Kathmandu with support of Nepal

Government on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2021. NRNA is planning to handover the concentrator to all 7 provinces in coordination with the Nepal Government.

NRNA understands that supply of Oxygen cylinder and concentrators is a temporary solution to solve the current need. There is need of constant supply of oxygen for long run; hence Association has decided to establish Oxygen Plants in 7 Provinces of Nepal. NRNA is preparing ground works and mobilizing resources for the plants.

The only solution to control this pandemic is the vaccination, for which NRNA is also appealing to international community, through its NCCs, for the facilitation to bring vaccines in Nepal.

NRNA is always ready to support and help its Nepali compatriots.



## President's Message



**A**s I enter my second year as President of NRNA, I and my wife would like to start my message with acknowledging and thanking my executive body, my staff, the Government of Nepal (GoN), advisors, press, consultants, committee chairs and committee members, volunteers and all stakeholders.

Immediately after the October 2019 election, I set my goals for my tenure aligning with my campaign message embracing our core values of truth, transparency, trust and accountability to meet our long-term vision of the organization firstly, to partner in socio-economic development of Nepal and secondly promote and protect interest of Nepali diaspora residing around the world.

NRNA was established 17 years ago and we have been experiencing an exponential growth of the organization in 82 countries.

With changing time and membership growth, it is time to revisit and bring major changes in organization's management system to understand and improve shortcomings in the organization.

Membership policy, election processes, integration with NCCs, disaster and risk management, philanthropy, improved migration policy, science and technology, gender equality and mutual respect are core areas in my tenure that are integral to achieve our vision.

We had a strategic planning meeting in Pokhara, Nepal in January 2020 to review past activities, set strategic direction and develop a "Road Map" to implement our strategic plan for 2019-21.

First, we started with a major transformation in management structure, redefined treasury department, entrusted department heads with specific responsibility and created advisory group to support the Executive

body.

We have successfully completed SMART NRNA, a technology - based - management system to effectively and safely manage member's records, electronic based election process, build relevant database, and improve integration with NCCs and other relevant areas. SMART NRNA is a modular system and will be upgraded as necessary in future need.

Women and youth empowerment, equality, inclusive society are core values of our organization, and we made a significant stride in education, awareness, workshops and amendment in Bylaws.

NRN Foundation-the "Heart and Soul of NRNA" is being created to manage philanthropic activities. This will bring major changes in implementing and managing philanthropic activities in Nepal and abroad.

The NRN Investment Company and NRN Knowledge Convention Programs are major "Pathways" for financial and knowledge investment in Nepal to partner in socio-economic development. We have made a remarkable progress partnering with the GoN and Nepali people. All NRNs will have equal opportunity to invest capital and knowledge in our beloved country.

We are also equally committed in undertaking various other activities such as completion of our flagship projects like "Laprak Model Settlement Development Project", NRN citizenship and amendment of NRN Act 2007, Mobile Blood Bus, and Public Sanitary Project.

NRNA has always adopted a leadership role during minor to major natural or nurture disasters in Nepal since its establishment in 2003.

As soon as the world was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic last year, our organization collaborated with the GoN, International

Organizations, sister organizations and individuals came together and carried out humanitarian activities both in Nepal and abroad providing PPE, medicine test kits and global medical support. We have also successfully planned and implemented "Relief, Repatriation and Rehabilitation (RRR)" to help stranded migrant workers around the world.

Our leadership, for the first time in the history of NRNA, established cordial relationship with International Organizations to partner in the RRR. We also have few challenges in trust building while the "Free Membership" Project remains a work-in-progress, adopting MIS system and others.

The first virtual meeting of 2nd Knowledge Convention and Special AGM were very successful.


The second wave of the pandemic has again emphasized on the need for unity, cooperation and coordination amongst us and I call upon all to contribute whatever we can to mitigate the effects of this pandemic and overcome this unprecedented catastrophe. I am grateful to all those that have contributed and supported NRNA and believe that, TOGETHER, we can come out being more resilient and humane.

Going forward we will work on completion of continuation of citizenship, implementation of free membership and popular voting system, improvement on election process consolidation of NRN Foundation, NRN Investment Company and Knowledge and Policy institute, capacity building and human capital development of youth.



Kumar Panta  
President

Non-Resident Nepali Association



# Vibrant NRNA in the midst of COVID 19 Pandemic

*Dr. Hem Raj Sharma*

**Y**ear 2020 was a big challenge for the entire world due to the COVID 19 pandemic which led to the global crisis. The year-long global and local lockdowns have sunken the global economy, as a result the global citizens suffered and keep suffering at all fronts – social, economic and psychological. When the COVID 19 hit the Wuhan city of China initially, the NRNA had just elected its new International Coordination Council (ICC) for the term 2019-2021. It was also a major challenge for the newly elected ICC to function efficiently and mobilize resources during the pandemic due to staying apart in different countries. However, the NRNA ICC actively teamed up to extend possible support and services to the Nepali Diaspora and Nepal during the pandemic, which is still ongoing. The NRNA is determined to serve the community in this time of need as always.

Even the pandemic could not restrain the team from helping fellow Nepalese devastated by the pandemic and stranded in different parts of the world. The NRNA actively mobilized more than 2,500 volunteers in more than 300 cities of 50 countries, and supported more than 200 thousand NRNs directly and indirectly during the pandemic. More than 200

NRN medical professionals played active role in providing health and psycho-social counselling to the affected NRNs. In addition to that, NRNA has collaborated with Nepal Government and international agencies, such as ILO and IOM, to launch the COVID-focused projects to rescue, repatriate and rehabilitate the affected and vulnerable groups of Nepalese residing abroad.

The NRNA COVID-19 Response to Nepali Migrant Workers Relief and Repatriation Program funded by ILO; initiated in July 2020, is a short term Program, extending possible support for the vulnerable migrant workers at major destination countries of the Middle-East and Malaysia. The returnee migrant workers have also received transportation support to reach their homes safely in Nepal. So far, more than 17,000 migrant workers are benefitted from the program initiatives and till date more than 1,050 Nepali migrant workers have received transportation facilities. The program also conducted suicide prevention training for its volunteers in destination as well as at the local level. The COVID-19 Response program extended support to at least 24,000 Nepali migrants affected by COVID 19 in destination countries.

COVID *Relief and Rescue* was an unexpected obligation for the NRNA; the association has many other regular roles and goals set for the term 2019-2021. Amidst the pandemic, the association revealed its Action Plan for the term 2019-21 reinvigorating its initiatives through a more logical, structured and streamlined projects Implementation Framework. NRNA ICC has adopted decentralized projects management strategy through the creation and involvement of dedicated departments. A total of Eight Departments were formed to efficiently manage the NRNA projects.

- Flagship Projects
- Foreign Employment and Welfare of NRNs Investment
- Trade and Nepal Promotion
- Skill, Knowledge and Technology Transfer
- Philanthropy and Humanitarian Assistance
- Women & Youths
- Organizational Management
- NRNA Foundation and Financial Sustainability

Contributing towards the Knowledge, Technology and Skill Transfer sector, in an active collaboration with the Government of Nepal, NRNA organized its 2nd NRN Online Global Knowledge Convention from 9-11 October 2020. The Convention discussed the challenges

brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and opportunities associated with it. The other subjects of the convention were aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations and the 15<sup>th</sup> five-year plan of National Planning Commission of Nepal. The focus of the convention was guided by four overarching themes- In-house Innovation for Societal Changes; Science, Technology & Innovation Policy; Startups and Commercialization; Digitalized Economy. The convention made 24-point summary recommendations and documented a detailed report concerning the COVID pandemic, food security issues, digitization, sustainable energy; Biomedical science and technology; development of end-of-life (palliative) care and more. Such recommendations are handed over to the Nepal Government for its consideration and possible implementation in related sectors. Prior to the global convention, NRNA also held four regional knowledge conferences in Oceania, Asia Pacific, Europe and Americas regions to explore the extent of knowledge bank possessed by Nepali diaspora around the world. It is also committed to continue such knowledge exchanges at the regional levels in days to come.

The NRNA is well aware of the fact that without allocating adequate resources, knowledge, skill and technology are not going to yield tangible impact in our economy. Hence the association has been involved in promoting collective investments by mobilizing resources from the NRN community to be used for

development of infrastructure, technology and the overall economy.

NRNA is committed to establish the NRN Nepal Development Fund of NPR 10 Billion with active support and participation from Nepal Government to achieve its development goals by investing primarily in equity of infrastructure companies and other financial sectors. This collective investment scheme is aimed at creating opportunities for various small and large NRN investors to invest in projects that are likely to improve the standards of living of Nepali people, generate employment and provide permanent income sources for the people living at the bottom of the financial pyramid. The NRN Nepal Development Fund was registered as a public limited company with the Company Registrar Office of Nepal Government on 30 March 2021.

Community Development is one of the crucial areas that NRNA has been working on. It has invested more than NPR 51 Crores to construct Laprak Model Settlement Development Project (LMSDP) in Gorkha district, West Nepal. This is one of the mega projects of NRNA, which aims to build a community comprising 573 houses for the victims of the deadly Earthquake that occurred on 15 April 2015. The houses with basic facilities including toilets are handed over to the local beneficiaries of Laprak on 22 April 2021.

NRNA is also collaborating with national and international organizations for other infrastructure requirements such

as school, drinking water, sanitation, electricity and other amenities. LMSDP will be one of the model projects of Nepal and expected to boost tourism in Laprak, Gorkha. The Care Nepal has supported in bringing water from 19 km away, while the Government of Nepal is supporting additional development of infrastructure such as retention wall, drainage road and electricity worth NPR 21 Crores. Nepal Electricity Authority has agreed to install free electric meter box in each house in the community. The installation of such boxes in the community will cost around NPR 12.5 million.

Recognizing Philanthropy and Charity as the basis of humanity and main source to contribute back to the community, NRNA has provisioned the establishment of NRNA Foundation in its constitution for channelizing funds and tapping resources from different parts of the world and mobilizing such funds to serve Nepali community and people during natural disasters; contribute in social, education, health, tourism, culture and development sectors in Nepal. Such Foundation will be established in different regions across the globe for better connection and resource generation. The NRNA Foundation aims to make the philanthropic activities of NRNs more effective and transparent in Nepal and connect Nepali Diaspora with Nepal through such humanitarian acts.

The NRNA is equally concerned about the pace of urbanization in the cities and other popular destinations of Nepal but lack of necessary sanitation amenities in these cities. Realizing the importance of clean

public areas, cities are now preparing to add new public restrooms and manage the existing ones better to meet the surging demands. Also, the sanitation needs of female and people with different abilities are significantly different from those of other population. The NRNA has proposed to utilize its resources in constructing model public restrooms in different parts of Kathmandu City. These new public restrooms will be children, women and differently abled people friendly. Each public restroom will be equipped with sanitary pads, vending machine, adequate water, aeration, and electricity.

The NRNA has joined hands with Kathmandu Metropolitan City for constructing four public restrooms in Kalanki, Tinkune, Narayangadh and Jorpati. Under the agreement, Nepal Government will provide the land and location, and it will be the responsibility of the NRNA to construct the public restrooms with all the facilities mentioned above. The cost of such restrooms will come around NPR 55 Lakhs each. The NRNA is planning to lay foundation of the first restroom in Kalanki soon.

The NRNA is committed towards the development of health and medical related facilities in Nepal. This year, NRNA has initiated the first of its kind project to contribute to efficient Blood Transfusion Services in Nepal through Mobile Blood Bus (MBS) Project. The first Mobile Blood Bus was handed over to Bharatpur Regional Blood Transfusion Service through Bharatpur Metropolitan City in

Province -3, Chitwan on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The cost of the mobile blood bus is NRs. 59,72,438.00.

The MBS intends to support efficient Blood collection and supplies in respective regions ensuring the quality and safety of Blood Donors and Patients. The Project will promote the use of technology in Blood Transfusion System in Nepal as well as immediately supplying blood to critical patients and save their lives. The NRNA is planning to extend the MBS project to other Provinces as well. The campaign for the Mobile Blood Bus for Province 7, Far Western Region, is nearing completion.

The NRNA's contribution in this front is not only related to the MBS project. The Association is collaborating with Nepal Red Cross Society Central Blood Transfusion Service and other international agencies to conduct "Training of Trainers on Blood Donor Motivation" in Nepal. Such trainings support in creating skilled manpower in blood donation sector to raise awareness about blood donation. NRNA with support of its NCC The Netherlands completed the Blood Bank project in Baglung on 24 January 2020 investing more than NPR 38 lakhs. The NRNA, in collaboration with NCCs and different organizations, organized more than 9 Blood Donation program during the pandemic.

The NRNA collaborated with the Shakti Group of Nepal to rehabilitate and provide shelter to returnee female migrants and victims of the COVID 19. It provided financial support to pregnant women who

lost their jobs during lockdown in the UAE. It also supported women and children at Shelters in Kuwait with personal hygiene kits and funds. On 25 November 2020, the NRNA initiated a global movement to end all forms of violence against women by organizing 16-day activism against gender-based violence. The NRNA helped young second generation talents to boost their confidence and share their thoughts on “My Dream for the Nation”, the first online Youth Speech contest organized by the Asia pacific region in August 2020. Hosting the first NRNA Asia World Youth Conference on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020, NRNA highlighted the role of youth and the enhancement of their skills and knowledge in nation building. The NRNA is also preparing to organize a Global Youth and Women conference.

The NRNA has always prioritized the agenda of promoting Nepal and its culture, language and heritage in international arena. The association launched various promotional programs abroad targeting visit Nepal 2020. During the pandemic, through its language, literature, heritage promotion committee, NRNA organized regular online activities focusing Nepali language and literature. Establishing the international NRN Literature award fund, it has published different publications written by the NRN literateurs. Through a weekly Nepali literature program known as *Prawashi Prabaha*, NRNA has brought diaspora and Nepali literateurs in a platform to regularly interact on promotion of Nepali literature.

Coping with the current pace of technology

and digitization, NRNA has come up with the SMART NRNA concept. The NRNA is developing the Membership Information System (MIS) to identify as well as discover its member information management systems and solutions. SMART NRNA project will help NRNA to maintain good governance by improving organizational integrity, stability, regularity, transparency, reliability, credibility and sustainability. NRNA targets to accelerate strong networks worldwide and also reach out to the international communities and agencies for more effective collaborations. Launching of new web portal of NRNA, crowd funding system, mobile application, data migration are the current developments under the Smart NRNA concept.

To address the agenda of Nepali migrants, NRNA is planning to host the first Labor Summit in June 2021 in collaboration with Nepal Government, national and international migration-focused agencies. The program will be highlighting the challenges faced by Nepali migrants as well as diplomatic and policy issues related to migration. The conclusion of the summit will be submitted to Nepal government to improve pertinent areas which will ensure safe and dignified migration.

The NRNA will be hosting its 10<sup>th</sup> International General Assembly in October 2021, which will be the gathering of all NRNs across the globe, and evaluate the performance of the term 2019-2021 as well as elect a new executive committee for the term 2021-23, and prepare strategic planning for the future.

# MEETING THE CHALLENGE:

## HIGH-LEVEL COVID 19 RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Dr. Puru Shrestha

**N**on-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) as the sole organization which brings the global Nepali Diaspora together, being deeply concerned about the health, well-being and livelihoods of all Nepali people living both in Nepal and abroad, is responding to mitigate the pandemic crisis at various levels. In order to integrate all its efforts made at various levels and also to align them with the nation-wide responses made by the Government of Nepal and other levels of governments as well as all other sectors through a well-thought out strategic plan, the NRNA-ICC has formed a High-Level Committee on COVID-19 Pandemic Mitigation Response, which is led by the NRNA President Kumar Panta with the composition of 18 Committees including the ICC Executive Body, International Experts and Advisor Hon. Gagan Thapa and Advisor Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar.

The Committee's aims were to work with Nepalis across the world to collaborate with the Government of Nepal, private and NGO sectors and International Authorities to reduce the negative impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on global Nepali Communities as well as to support their families, society and governments in their efforts to fight against the pandemic.

### FOCUS

- Create a high-level joint committee between the Government of Nepal (GoN) and NRNA Secretariat led by President Kumar Panta to prepare a short-and long-term public health preparedness plan to include immediate **RELIEF, REPATRIATION AND REHABILITATION**.
- Create an Emergency Command Centre led by VP NRNA supported FIVE to TEN-member technical team in Nepal.
- Identify areas that Diaspora community can assist e.g., specialized technical expertise, training, telemedicine, supply of equipment, test-kits, PPE and public health management.
- Establish an NRNA COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness Command Centre office at the NRNA Secretariat Office at Kathmandu, Nepal with a full-time staff reporting to Emergency Preparedness Command Centre Chair.

- Create an economic and social impact study team to work with the GoN, Ministry of Finance, Foreign Affairs and Labour and NCC Presidents.
- Develop a strategic short-and long-term plan and implement immediately in all NCCs to provide an Immediate, short-and long-term support.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Built a strong “coalition” among the High-Level Committee, NRNA National Coordination Committees (NRNA NCCs), GoN, International Organizations and Diaspora Professionals.
- Created a Global Medical Team to provide necessary medical support to migrant workers.
- Provided PPE, Telemedicine Service, Equipment, Test-Kits and Financial support to Nepalis in Nepal and across the world.
- Successfully implemented Relief and Repatriation services to thousands of students, visitors and migrant workers across the world. Documented all activities.
- A piloting work being done in **KARNALI PROVINCE to document effectiveness of Relief, Repatriation and Rehabilitation programs for migrant workers.**

## LEARNINGS AND WAY FORWARD

1. Nepal has constitutional provisions as well as legal and regulatory means adequate to undertake prevention, control and mitigation measures against impacts in the face of the health emergencies of huge magnitude such as current COVID-19 and other natural disasters. They must be activated suitably and proactively to implement the plan of action in a timely manner.
2. The Nepal Health Sector Strategy for the next five years (2021-2026) should continue to focus on Equity, Quality, Health System strengthening, but must also strengthen disease prevention, with epidemiological investigations, both on communicable and non-communicable diseases.
3. High level of political will at the highest level of leadership to manage the pandemic and natural disasters is a necessary condition for success in prevention, control and mitigation of their adverse impacts. The highest level of leadership should coordinate and lead all other political forces in a transparent, non-partisan and coherent manner.
4. A restructuring of health care

system with the formation of Public Health Department (PHD) at the Federal and Provincial levels, equipped with state-of-the-art technologies and a national network of highly qualified epidemiologists, and further strengthening health governance at the 753 local government levels will be necessary for a functional system to address manifold issues of public health and health emergencies.

5. Effective public health leadership is a key to identifying the problems and managing them based on the best scientific evidence, in timely, equitably and a cost-effective manner.
6. In the face of pandemic such as the current COVID-19 crisis, activation of incident command system, decentralized contact tracing, enforcement of isolation and quarantine system; population-wide clear communication about the risks, impacts and mitigation should be organized and managed in a coordinated manner under an integrated plan of action.
7. The Risk Management Committee needs to be formed at the Federal, Provincial and local level to function under the coordination of the GoN Disaster Management Council, which should collaborate and coordinate with all other national and international support systems.
8. Gaps in the health care and public health systems should be analyzed reviewing the up-to-date scientific evidence based on epidemiological studies and assessment of physical, demographic and socio-economic impacts from the pandemic or the natural disasters.
9. Health and social security of the people, especially the vulnerable and marginalized segment of the population and **migrant workers** are of paramount importance during pandemic and other disasters and must be ensured with direct government benefits provided to them.
10. Economic stimulus programs for keeping the country's economy based on the economic assessment parameters such as production, government revenues & spending, exports, imports, income and employment rates. **Review migration policy to develop security for migrant workers.**
11. The strategic plan foresees a situation where health emergencies of various forms will be happening continuously over time, such as during large devastating earthquake, disease epidemic, floods, landslides, and other natural as well as anthropogenic calamities, which are not uncommon in Nepal, **therefore it is important to create a permanent Disaster and Risk Management capability team within the NRNA and collaborate with International Organizations.**

# Initiative to Provide Relief and Repatriate Nepali Migrant Workers Affected due to the COVID-19 Crisis

*Dr Badri KC  
Rajendra Rawat*

**T**he unprecedented COVID-19 global pandemic worsened the lives of the world's population and particularly it has permeated a grave crisis in lives of the migrant workers globally. As of the pandemic, different occupational hazards have been created leading to multiple challenges; losing lives, jobs due to closure or non-functioning of businesses, deductions or non-payment of wages, saturated labor markets, pressure of destination countries to send the migrant workers back to their countries of origin etc.

Looking at the information there are more than two hundred thousand stranded Nepali migrant workers repatriated due to COVID-19. Similarly, there are thousands of migrant workers seeking relief and repatriation support and there would be considerably large number of workers who would want to stay back in the countries of destinations and seeking assistance of the missions to settle their grievances and also there would be more than thousands of stranded Nepali migrant worker who would be expected to return back due to economic crisis in those destination countries.

In order to provide humanitarian assistance to the stranded Nepali Migrant workers in this difficult situation; NRNA-ICC mobilized its internal resources and volunteers to meet the immediate needs. However, it was quite challenging to meet unmet needs and considering such growing needs; the bilateral support was also initiated that largely helped to accelerate the support to those vulnerable Nepali Migrant Workers in Malaysia and middle east countries. Finally, the NRNA COVID-19 Response to Nepali Migrant workers relief and repatriation program was initiated which largely contributed to benefit the vulnerable Nepali migrant workers. The major achievements of the program are:

- The program has supported to complement the Nepali Embassies initiatives on relief and repatriation at the concerned destination countries.
- Capacity building support on mental health/psychosocial training for first responders-suicide prevention training.

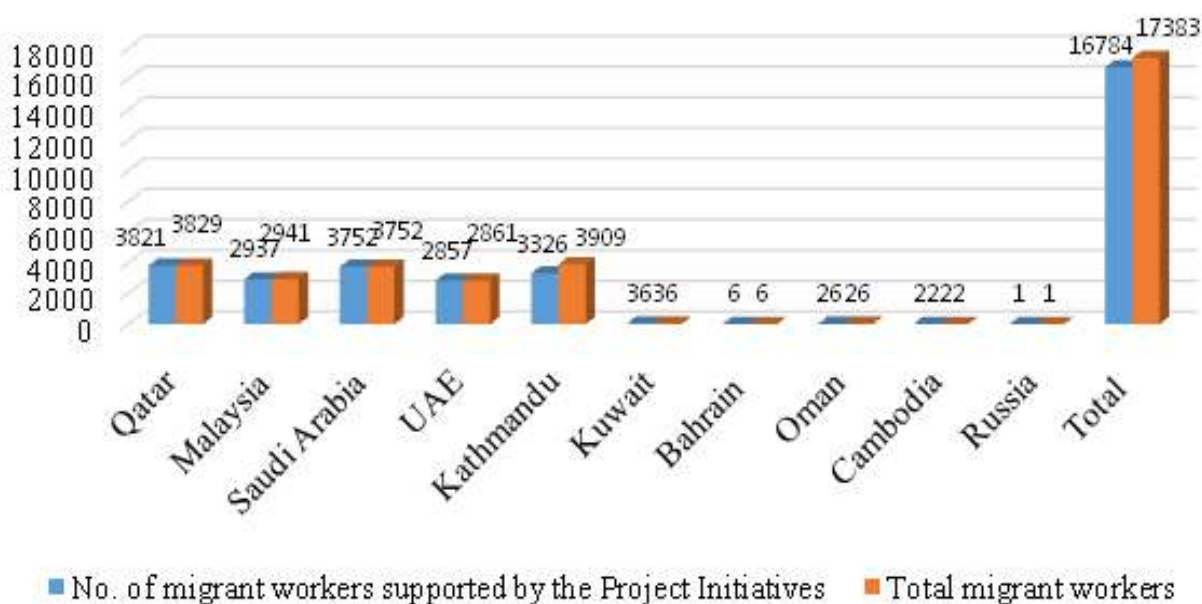
- Logistics support for provincial government on medical items to support for isolation/quarantine centers (Province 1, 2 and 7).
- The food and shelter, RT-PCR test support, partial air ticket, support to minimal detention fines, outreach support for passport renewal and other needful assistance, support to documentation for reemployment, legal assistance and repatriation process.
- After their return to Nepal, each vulnerable is reached out at TIA, their issues are discussed and provided with needed transport to reach back home.

## Key Achievements:

The project has reached out to 17383 Nepali Migrant Workers till March 2021. Out of which, 16,784 migrants are provided with different categories of support. Following chart is the representation of migrants reached out in different destination countries and Nepal. The country wise progress is presented below:

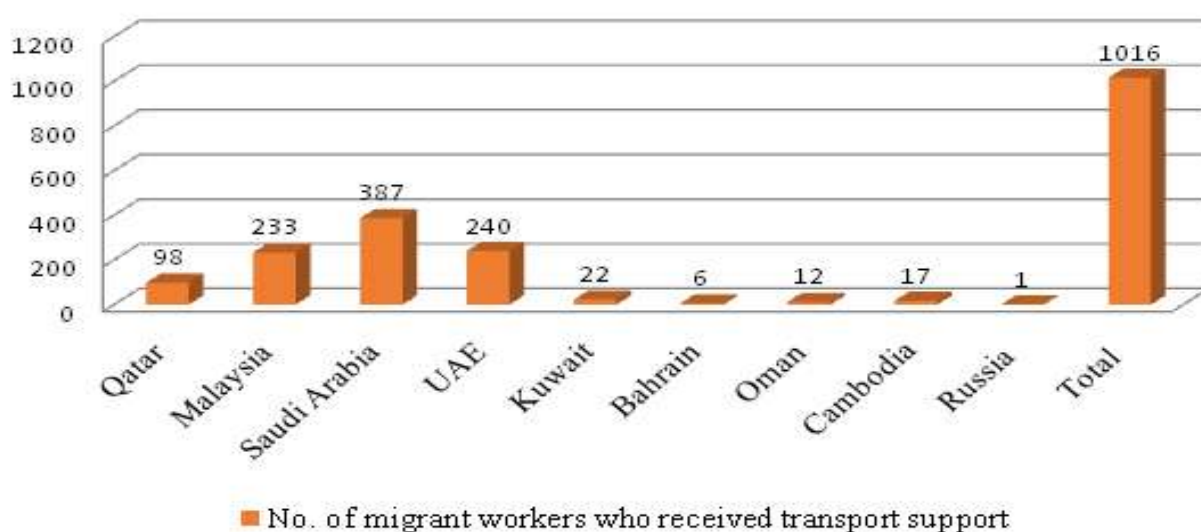
The project has reached out to the migrant workers with various types of support. This includes food/accommodation, counseling so as to overcome their stress, documentation support and networking with the related embassy, company, manpower, etc., PCR support, transportation support (including in Nepal), and also help them find new jobs. In overall, out of 16,784 supported migrant workers, 2873 are provided with food and accommodations. Its graphical presentation is described in below:

**No. of migrant workers supported by NRNA Project Initiatives**



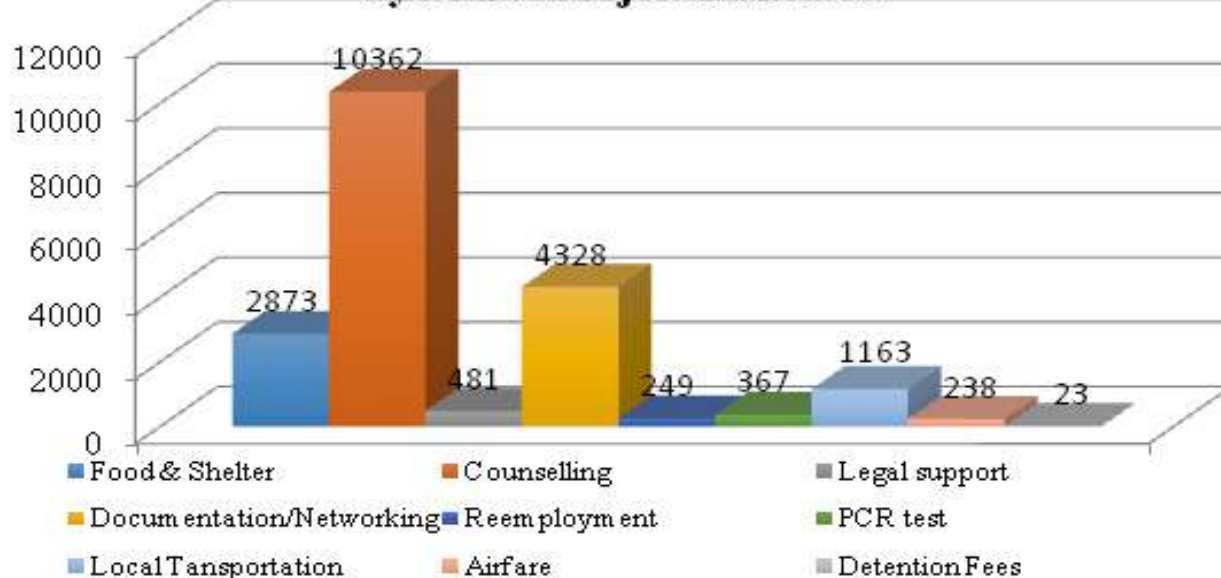
The returnee migrant workers from different destination countries; in total of 1016 migrant workers supported by the relief and repatriation program of NRNA. Looking at the data 98, 233, 387, 240, 22, 6, 12, 17 and 1 of the workers from Qatar, Malaysia, Saudi, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Cambodia and Russia respectively have been supported to reach safely at their home from Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), Kathmandu till March 2021.

**Country wise transportation support provided by NRNA Project Initiatives**

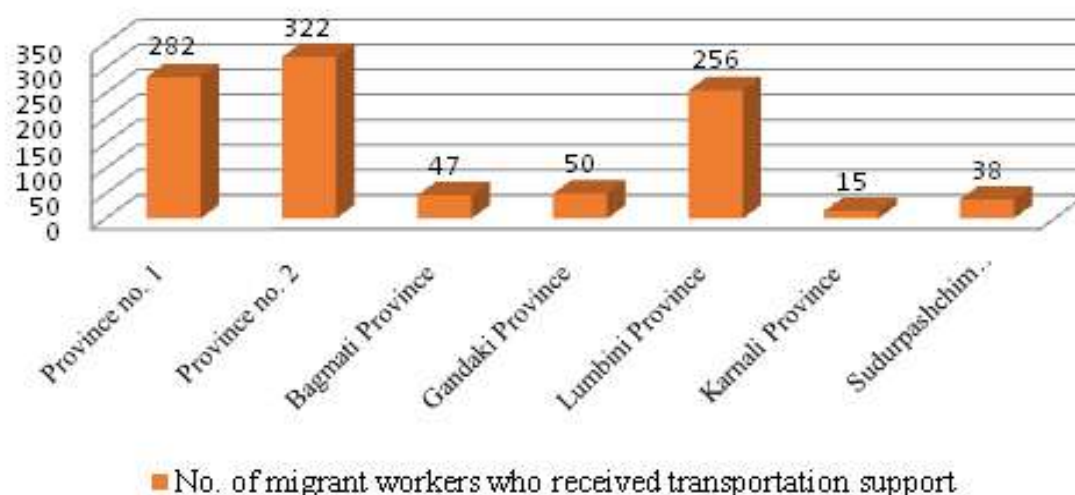


Similarly, province wise transportation support provided to the returnee Nepali migrant workers are presented below. The majority of the returnee migrant workers are from Province 2 (322) and Province 1 (282).

**Types of support provided to the Nepali migrant workers by NRNA Project Initiatives**

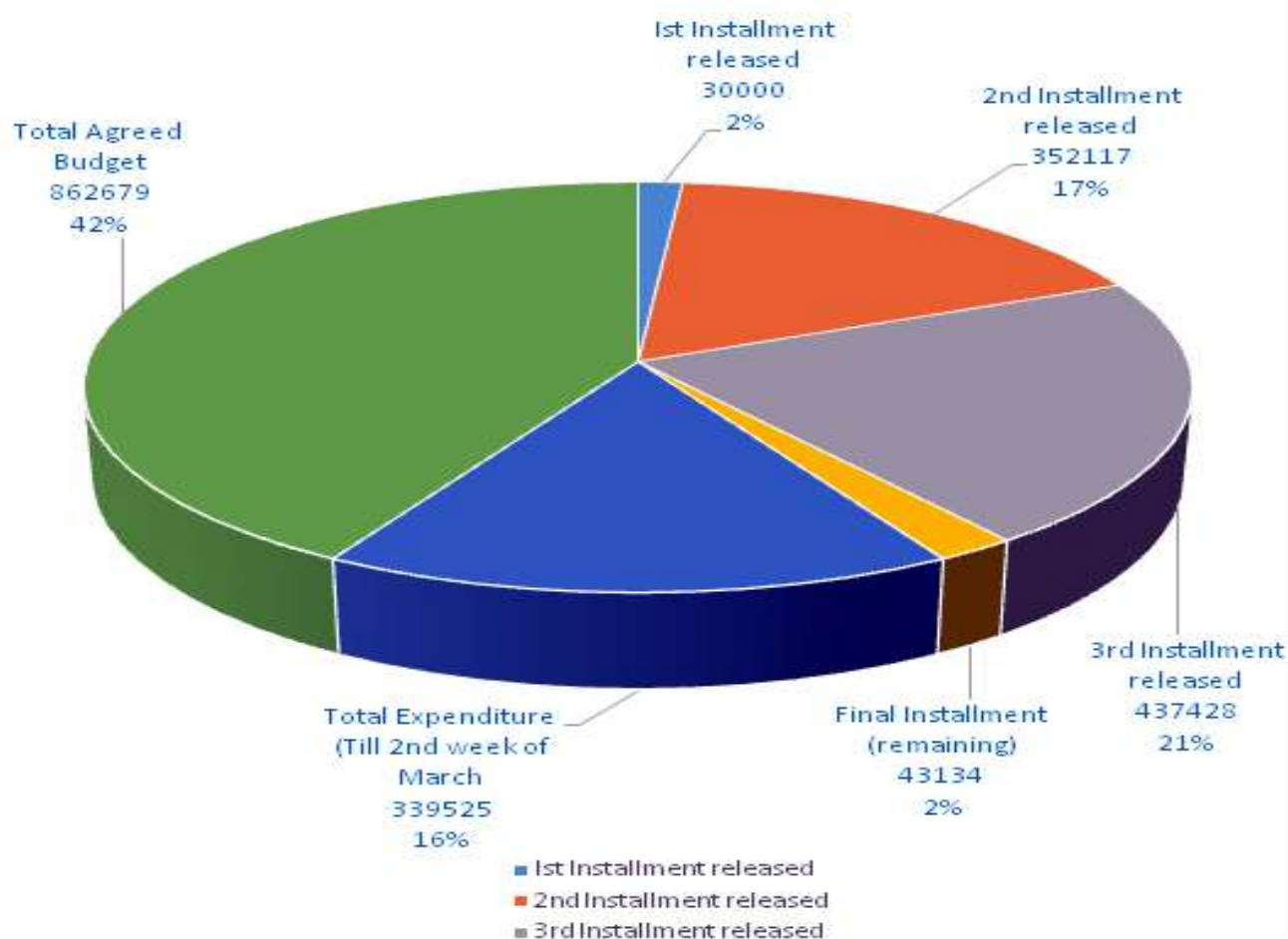


### Province wise transportation support provided by NRNA Project Initiatives



### Financial Status:

#### Budget Allocation Vs. Expenditure (Till 2nd Week of March 2021) in USD



## Case Story 1:

### *Mr. Prakash Gurung-a vulnerable Nepali Migrant met with his family after 7 years at a hospital in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:*

Mr. Gurung met with an accident in 2013 A.D. in Saudi Arabia and was hospitalized for 7 years. He was almost at the condition of coma during that period. Nepal Embassy posted his condition in social media to find out if he had any relatives. Soon, they were contacted by the patient's brothers. Then his repatriation process was possible due to the joint coordination between Nepal Embassy in Saudi Arabia and the NRNA. He was received in the Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu by NRNA's relief and repatriation program volunteers and was supported with air ticket and other logistics to help him reach safely his home incurring no cost on his behalf.

The NRNA Nepal based program team are constantly getting in touch with his family members to know more about him and his condition. It is notified that his condition is slowly improving than when he was received at the airport. After repatriation of 6 months; Mr. Prakash Gurung now can walk around his home and his condition has been significantly improved. His family members are very happy to see progress in his health condition. He got his second life due to support from the NRNA and Nepali Embassy in Saudi Arabia.



NRNA Volunteer received Mr.Prakash Gurung at TIA, October 2020



Mr. Prakash at his home and he seems very happy, April 2021

## Case Story No. 2:

*A 24 year old differently able worker with nobody on his side reached out by NRNA-ILO Joint Project Initiative:*

He had to amputate his one leg in Malaysia because of the loan he couldn't pay back to the lender. During his escape from the gangsters employed to beat him up or even kill him, he sustained serious injuries. As per the hospital's recommendation and refusal by airlines' to fly him back to Nepal due to his critical condition, he had no option other than amputation.

The NRNA relief and repatriation project supported for repatriation process and helped him with the shelter, made necessary arrangements with Nepal Embassy in Malaysia to reach him back to Nepal. After his arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu, the NRNA volunteers received him and managed the air ticket to get him to his home safely. He seems very happy to get the support from NRNA and Nepal Embassy at Malaysia regarding his repatriation process. The NRNA relief and repatriation program team is continuously doing the follow up and recently a wheel-chair was provided to him to support him with his mobility.



# Leaving no Nepali Behind: Meeting Health Needs during the Pandemic

*Dr. Sanjeeb Sapkota, USA*  
Chair, NRNA Health Committee

**A**n estimated over 8 million Nepalis reside outside Nepal in over 100 countries around the world: most are migrant workers, some are students, some residents, and other citizens of the host country.

Once Corona infection became an outbreak in China, the NRNA Health Committee rolled out an aggressive strategy in making the Nepali community aware of its

potential to be pandemic and infecting and wreaking havoc. The committee became engaged in efforts and activities in helping them improve and maintain their health.

Rapid efforts facilitated by Health Committee raised over 2 million dollars. The funds were used in buying personal protection equipment and donating them to both government of Nepal and in rural areas through a network of doctors.



Through a series of hundreds of webinars and presentations, experts shared scientific information and ways to remain uninfected during the pandemic, and if infected taking aggressive action to assuage the impact of the infection on the body.

Guidelines on specific topics are published in easy-to-understand Nepali language such as on safety measures while out in the public, use of public transportation during the pandemic, safety of doctors and nurses while providing care, etc.

Audio media of short durations was widely used that could be easily understood by Nepali individuals with general literacy levels. These podcasts helped tremendously in alleviating misunderstanding and providing credible information. Video podcasts were prepared on the proper use of masks, the meaning of quarantine, and isolation.

The establishment of regional health teams has been a significant achievement. Three regional health teams have been established, one each in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Each of these teams includes doctors and nurses and other health experts as well as health advocates. Australia and the United States have the existing organization of Nepali doctors and health professionals with whom we are partnering to serve these regions.

Each of these Health Teams function as the tele-health systems. For an instant, any Nepali in Europe could contact doctors/nurses in the Europe Health Team and

seek health guidance. The same is true in the Middle East and in Africa or in another part of the world, for that matter.

Strengthening mental health has been one of the focuses of the health committee. We created Global Mental Health Team and charged it with tasks to create an extensive network of psychiatrists and psychologists and organize targeted programs to help enhance and maintain the mental health of people of Nepali origin. The team recently coordinated training on Suicide prevention where close to 100 people took part and gained skills and knowledge to recognize signs of suicidal thoughts and ideation and help the individual pass through the difficult time.

We provided funding to the Karnali Tele-Health Project that helped in expanding services in the rural district of Humla. Rural Nepali communities that otherwise would not have received health consultation services, could go to the nearest health center where the health care worker will triage her condition. Then the health worker will link with a consultant remotely, whether orthopedics or a gynecologist or a nephrologist and provide quality services.

The pandemic is a gigantic public health crisis where a single organization, government or agency could not work alone. Each and everyone needs to work cohesively to slow the pandemic and eventually stop it.

The NRNA Health Committee has partnered with Nepali Medical Association

(NMA), Nepal Medical Council, America Nepal Medical Foundation, Australia Nepal Medical, and Dental Association, Nepalese Doctors Association (United Kingdom).

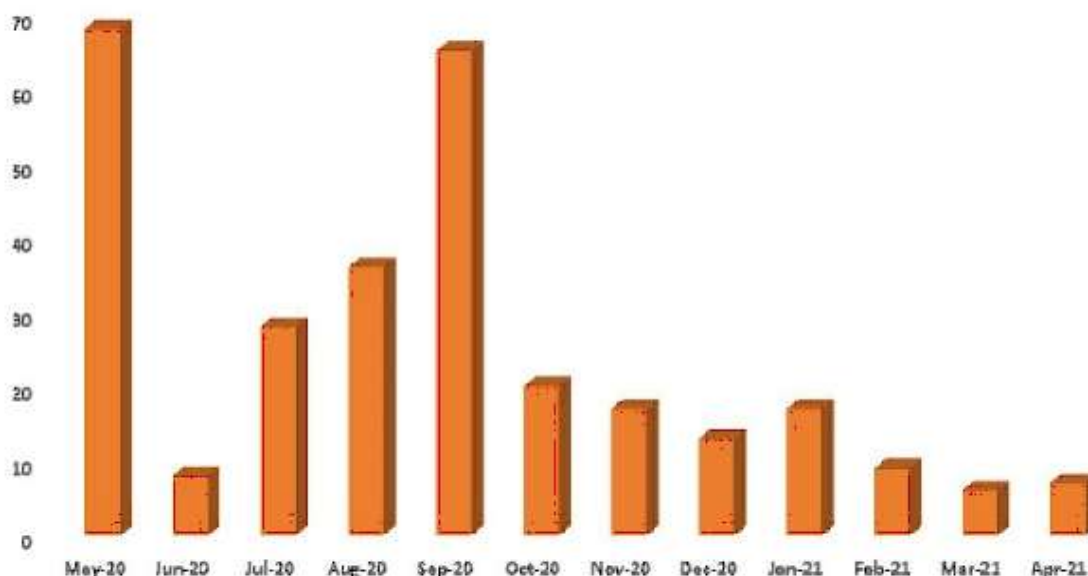
Weekly statistics has been a landmark initiative of the Health Committee. Each week data were gathered on the estimated number of infected, recovered, and deceased Nepali from around the world. Data source were mixed and numerous such as doctors and nurses working in hospitals around the world, health advocates, officials of Non-Resident Nepali Association working in different countries, informants and other. At the time of this writing, over 95% of Nepalis have been

recovered among those who have been infected: over 66 thousand recovered out of an estimated 70 thousand infected. Sadly 372 Nepali succumbed to Corona, but the case fatality rate has remained remarkably low at 0.53%.

The weekly statistics have used and been relied on by governments, international agencies, non-governmental organizations, embassies, and consulates. This has helped the global Nepali community in mobilizing scarce resources where they are needed to help mitigate the pandemic.

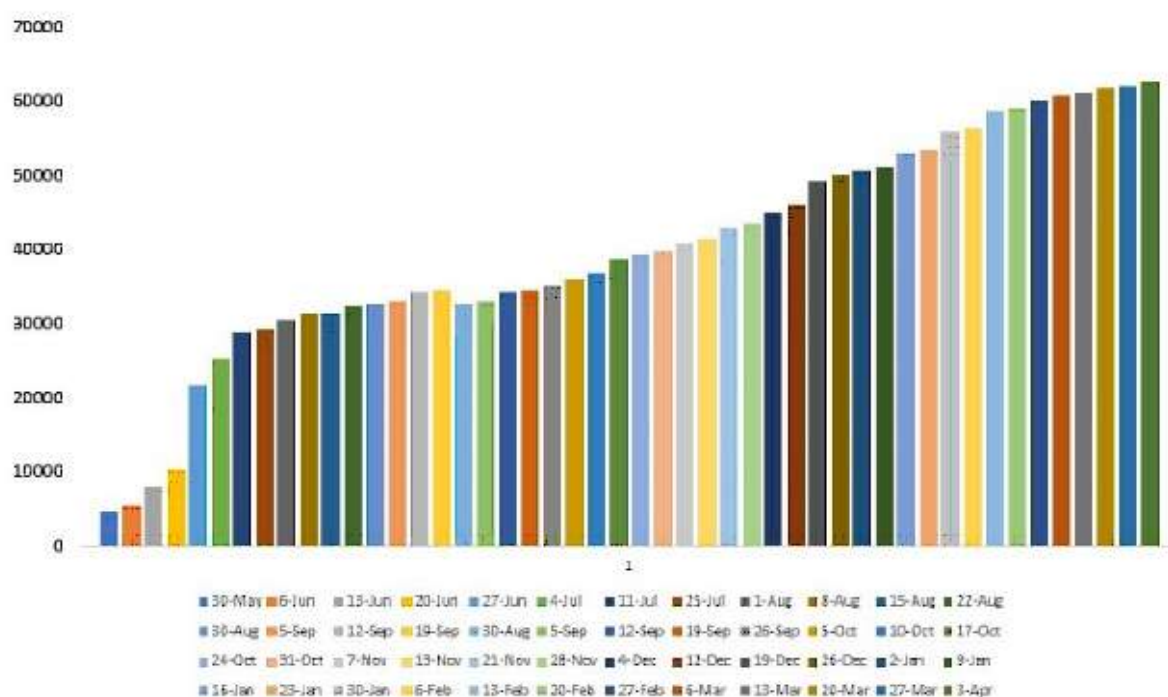
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Nepali Health Conference held during pandemic gave the rare opportunity for health care workers and

**Number of Nepali whose Death were Related to Corona Infection  
Each Month Worldwide, May 2020 – Apr 2021**



Disclaimer: Compiled by Health Committee of NRNA from different sources including Nepali community, Nepali organisations, doctors, nurses and health professionals working in different countries. Death reported Data not available in other countries. Date of death reported does not necessarily coincide with date of occurrence.

### Trend in Number of Recovered Nepali who were Infected with Corona Each Week Worldwide May 31, 2020 – Apr 03 2021



Disclaimer: Compiled by Health Committee of NRNA from different sources including Nepali community, Nepali organizations, doctors, nurses and health professionals working in different countries. Death reported Data not available in other countries. Date of death reported does not necessarily coincide with date of occurrence.

those who have stakes in Nepali health to convene, interact. A record 5000 people participated in the virtual conference during Sept 18-20, 2020, and benefitted from the over 100 webinars, sessions, training, and paper presentations. Over 250 experts and speakers took part.

Vaccine literacy and guidelines and effort to expedite the availability of vaccines to Nepali citizens have been our major activity. Guidelines with valuable current information are prepared and shared in the global network. Efforts are being made to hasten the procurement process and its dispatch administration.

Providing technical guidance to Nepal Government and professional organizations has been our major action. Interactions with government and non-government organization's officials and sharing best practices and technology with them have helped in better service to Nepali people. This is an ongoing process.

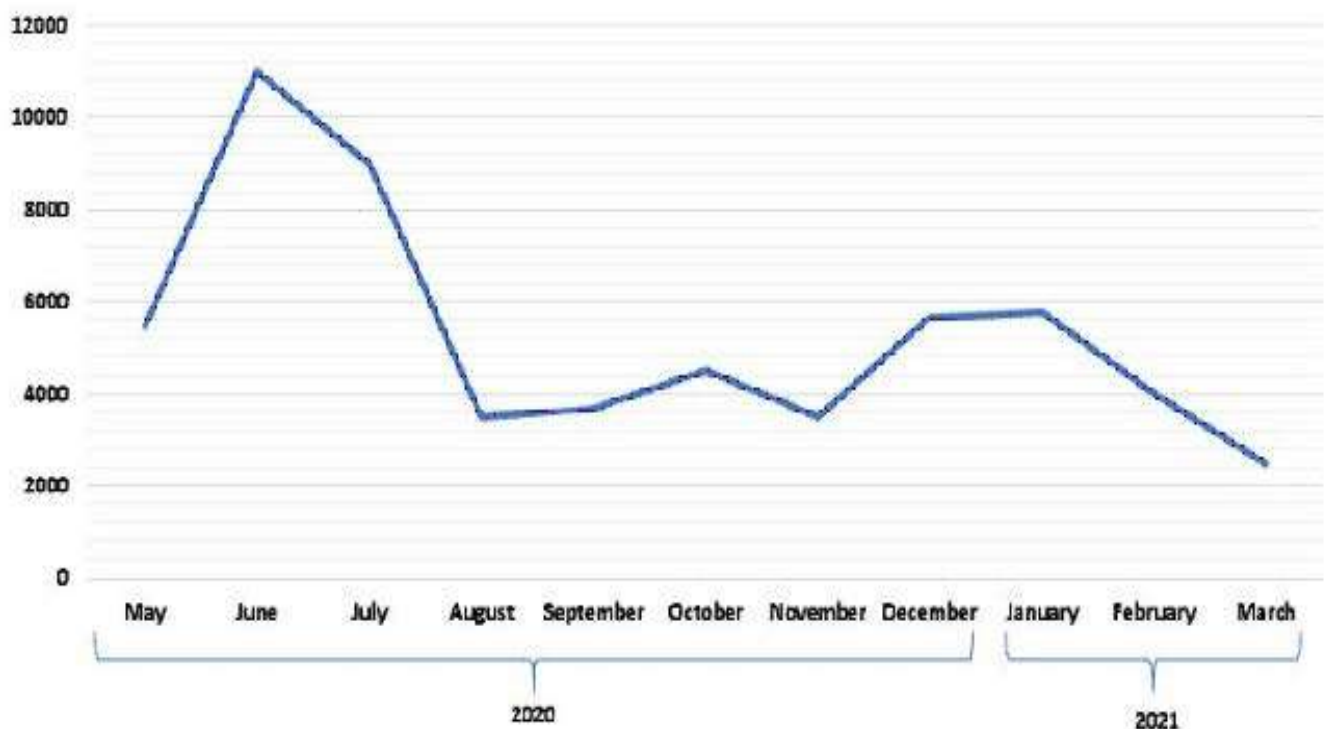
Improving health and maintaining it is not an overnight process but continuous and consistent. It's a marathon we are on and not a sprint. However, with patience and persistence, we will continue to reach the goal of helping each Nepali gain access to basic health care.

I invite everyone reading this to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Nepali Health Conference being held in London during September 17-19, 2021. Akin to the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> global health conference, the 3<sup>rd</sup> conference will coalesce individuals, stakeholders & orga-

nizations who have stakes in maintaining and improving the health of Nepali. More information can be found in this [conference website](#).

For further info, please contact:  
*Email: [chair.health@nrna.org](mailto:chair.health@nrna.org)*

### Monthly Estimated Number of Nepali Recovered from Corona-related Illness, Worldwide May, 2020 – Apr, 2021



Disclaimer: Compiled by Health Committee of NRNA from different sources including Nepali community, Nepali organizations, doctors, nurses and health professionals working in different countries. Deaths reported Data not available in other countries. Date of death reported does not necessarily coincide with date of occurrence.

# NRN Nepal Development Fund (NDF)

*By Anal Raj Bhattarai*

On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018, with the aim to facilitate the Non-resident Nepalis (NRN) to participate in collective investing scheme and to bring capital as well as knowledge and technology in Nepal, a concept paper on the proposed investment plan for NRN Nepal Development Fund (NDF) was handed to the Ministry of Finance by NRNA. The objective of this investment plan was to bring an investment of ten billion Nepali rupees, which would then be used in funding and as investment for various projects and activities. A year later, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NRNA and the government of Nepal at the Investment Summit held on 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The government of Nepal reiterated committed to facilitate the NRN's investment plan by allowing NRN to invest in capital market and by facilitating utilization of skill, knowledge, and capital of NRN for economic and social purposes. These were included in the Budget of 2019. Following which, the Nepal Rastra Bank through its Monetary Policy announcement had allowed NRNs to open deposit accounts for two years with repatriation facility.

The NDF is a collective investment scheme. It is aimed to create opportunities to various small and large Non-Resident Nepali (NRN) investors to invest in

projects that are likely to improve standard of living of Nepalese population and generate employment and provide permanent sources of income to NRNs, allowing to participate in national development through close collaboration with local stakeholders, governmental agencies and other collaborating organisations, private or governmental. The NDF has three major objectives. The First being to bring Rupees ten billion worth of investment and the second and third are to issue public shares and to participate in the national development respectively. Apart from the three major objectives, NDF also aims to participate in green financing, participate in development activities, invest in basic agriculture projects, provide line of credit with or without options of equity conversion and raise the standard of living of Nepali people.

To fulfil these objectives, the NDF has been registered as a limited liability company with an authorized capital of Ten Billion rupees as well as issued capital of Ten Billion rupees. This capital will be brought into Nepal within one year from the date of incorporation of the company. Fifteen to Twenty percent of the equity will be allotted on the basis of private placement as follows: Selected NRNs (15-20%), Government of Nepal (5%). The selection of

the founding promoters will be the sole discretion of NRNA, however the NRNA will engage with the Ministry of Finance to finalize the list.

Apart from the fund itself, the NDF also has some criteria for investment as well as a procedure for project screening, investment management and other strategies. At the initial phase, the areas that the investment will focus on are tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, IT and urbanization, Infrastructure and Energy, among others. The NDF seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing primarily in equity of infrastructure companies. The Fund defines infrastructure companies as those companies that derive major operating earnings from the ownership or operation of infrastructure assets. The Fund defines infrastructure assets as the physical structures, networks and systems of transportation, energy, water and waste management.

A project for investment has to undergo the following phases, before being finalized which are- Deal Sourcing and Origination, Screening, Due Diligence and Valuation, Approval and Structuring and Monitoring, Management and Governance. The NDF has certain guiding principles which it must follow while screening any project which are as follows. The project has to be technically sound and viable; the project must support the basic growth objectives of the government of Nepal, the project must be environment friendly and socially sustainable and must have private sector control. Investment criteria

will be based on feasibility of the projects. Infrastructure projects investment will be based on project financing concept. The NDF will look upon the project cash flows for debt repayment to access the viability of the projects.

The Fund seeks to be a leader in developing/financing in the country by developing in-house expertise in this area. This will be primarily focused on developing an in-depth knowledge of the infrastructure and associated technologies so that the NDF fully understands the financing needs and associated risks in the sector. This will enable the NDF to formulate innovative financial products and services, including the sourcing of appropriate funds, to address the financing needs and mitigate or hedge the risks.

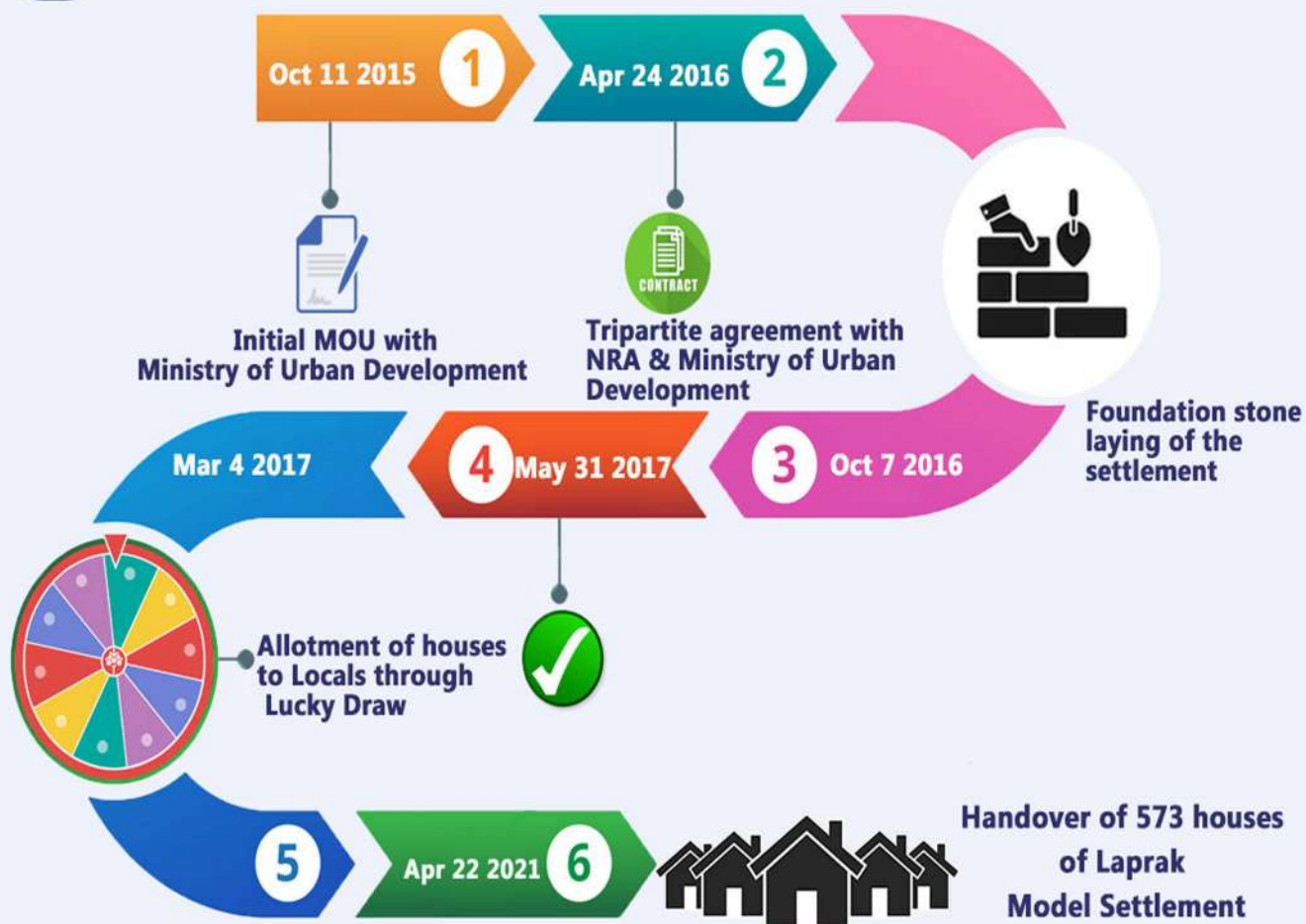
***NRN Nepal Development Fund was officially registered with the Company Registrar of Nepal Government on 30 March 2021.***





# NRNA LAPRAK MODEL SETTLEMENT

Site: Gupshipakha, Laprak VDC Gorkha



## Income:

Fund Received From Contributors	422,545,137.87
Interest Income	57,625,323.98
NRNA Contribution from other funds	133,857,853.60
<b>Total Fund</b>	<b>614,028,315.45</b>

## Expenses:

1st phase earthquake relief expense:	37,423,478.96
LMSDP (Laparak Project)	576,604,836.49
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>614,028,315.45</b>



# NRNA ICC Timeline 2019-2021

**2019** *October*

- 20<sup>th</sup> Signing of MoU with Nepal Government to support Visit Nepal 2020

**2020**

*February*

- 6<sup>th</sup> Signing of MoU with Kathmandu Metropolitan City to construct smart public restrooms

*March*

- 10<sup>th</sup> Signing of MoU with Shakti Group to support female migrants
- 18<sup>th</sup> Highlevel COVID Committee formed
- 31<sup>st</sup> Regional Online European Meeting

*April*

- 10<sup>th</sup> Handover Covid Essentials to Public Hospitals of Nepal
- 11<sup>th</sup> Handover of Covid Essentials to Ministry of Health
- 17<sup>th</sup> Handover of 125 PPE sets to Hospitals of Province 2 and 7
- 28<sup>th</sup> Handover of 150 set Covid Essentials to Gorkha, Mustang and Far West Hospital

- 30<sup>th</sup> Handover of 2nd lot of Covid Essentials to Nepal Government

*May*

- 10<sup>th</sup> Handover of Covid Essentials and 4000 pcs of KN mask to Nepal government
- 11<sup>th</sup> Issued statment condemning the act of encroachment of Lipulek by India
- 21<sup>st</sup> Handover of Covid Essentials to Nepal government

*June*

- 20<sup>th</sup> Handover of Covid Essentials to Province 7
- 29<sup>th</sup> Signing of MoU with ILO to support relief and repatriation program for migrants

*July*

- 5<sup>th</sup> Supply of water bottles to 3 holding centers in kathmandu

- 15<sup>th</sup> Signing of MoU with Nepal library Foundation Canada

### August

- 4<sup>th</sup> Handover of 16000 masks to Province no. 2
- 7<sup>th</sup> Handover of 10000 masks to Province no. 2
- 9<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Pacific Youth Speech Content
- 18<sup>th</sup> Distributed 10000 surgical masks to Holding centers at Kathmandu

### September

- 1<sup>st</sup> Contributed NPR 7.18 Lakhs to Landslide Victims of Sindhupalchowk
- 4-6<sup>th</sup> Americas Regional Meeting and 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Knowledge Convention
- 10<sup>th</sup> 16000 masks handed over to Gandaki Province
- 12-13<sup>th</sup> Oceania Regional Meeting and Knowledge Convention
- 18<sup>th</sup> 2nd World Health Conference
- 26-27<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting and 1st Knowledge Convention

### October

- 3-4<sup>th</sup> European Regional Meeting & women and Knowledge convention
- 11<sup>th</sup> 2nd Global Knowledge Convention
- 11<sup>th</sup> Celebration of NRN Day
- 16-17<sup>th</sup> Middle East Regional Meeting

### November

- 6<sup>th</sup> 10000 pcs of Antigen Test Kit handed over to Nepal Government
- 25<sup>th</sup> Violence Against Women – 16 Days campaign

### December

- 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Youth Conference
- 18<sup>th</sup> Mobile Blood Bus handed over to Bharatpur Blood Center

2021

### January

- 20<sup>th</sup> 5000 mask handed over to Nepal Airlines Corporation
- 23-24<sup>th</sup> NRNA Special International General Assembly

### February

- 6<sup>th</sup> “NRN Reflection 2021” Program

### March

- 8<sup>th</sup> International Women’s Day celebrated
- 20<sup>th</sup> Make in Nepal Program
- 30<sup>th</sup> Registrat of NRN Nepal Development Fund

### April

- 5<sup>th</sup> Handed over 10 wheel Chair to specially abled People
- 17<sup>th</sup> Founding President Dr. Upendra Mahato appointed as Chair of NRN NDF

18<sup>th</sup>

Patron and Past President Jiba Lamichhane appointed as Chair of NRN Foundation

22<sup>th</sup>

Handed over 573 Houses to the beneficiaries of Dharche VDC, Gupshipakha, Gorkha

### May

5<sup>th</sup>

Global NRN Singing Idol Second Generation Official Opening

15<sup>th</sup>

Initiation of Send Oxygen Nepal to save life of fellow Nepalese Campaign

16<sup>th</sup>

560 Oxygen Cylinders and accessories donated handed over to Nepal Government

29<sup>th</sup>

The NRN Singing Star Soft Launch

### June

7<sup>th</sup>

483 Oxygen Concentrator handed over to Nepal Government

31<sup>st</sup>

Whitepaper on the Issues and Challenges Faced by Nepali Migrants in Foreign Employment (First Draft)

### July

5<sup>th</sup>

Approval of Installation of 4 Oxygen Plants in Provinces

6<sup>th</sup>

Processing for Mobile Blood Bus Far West Province

8<sup>th</sup>

Chief Patron and Past President Dr. Shesh Ghale appointed as Chair NRNA Policy Institute



## Non-Resident Nepali Association

Subarna Shamsheer Marg,  
Baluwatar, Kathmandu

Tel: 014411530 , 014426005

Email: [info@nrna.org](mailto:info@nrna.org)

Website: [www.nrna.org](http://www.nrna.org)