

Report on COVID-19 – Nepal
Nepal trade Union Congress (NTUC)

The COVID-19 outbreak has already taken 42,354 lives worldwide among 861,305 people having been affected. By today 206 countries affected by this pandemic. Besides, this pandemic also devastated the global economy increasing concerns of the workers particularly in informal sectors and labour migration as the more job cuts are expected in the labour market and labour migration has to come to a complete halt. According to estimates from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), nearly 25 million jobs could be lost worldwide as a result of the pandemic.

Present Situation of COVID-19 in Nepal is as flows:

Cases	Total	New
Total Test	1060	97
Positive	5	0
Go back to Home after Treatment	1	0
Negative	1055	97

Due to this global crisis, service industries have been sharply declining as of the restriction in movement and there is a disruption in the manufacturing sector exacerbating the situation of workers. The most vulnerable groups of workers – women, youth, older workers, migrant workers, self-employed and workers in precarious employment have been worst affected by the pandemic.

The Government of Nepal issued a complete lock down order for all over the countries effective from 24th of March 2020 until 31st of March 2020 and it was extended for a week again. Per the order all residents and visitors are required to remain in their place of residence. All movement on the roads, by vehicle and on foot, is currently prohibited with very limited life safety exceptions. Government of Nepal also closed the domestic and International flights till 15th April 2020. Most of the Informal and self-employed workers are in vulnerable situation in all over the country and they do not have work and suffering from hunger. Thousands of Migrant Workers returning from India stranded at border points as India-Nepal border closed to prevent spread of COVID-19. Government of Nepal not coordinating with Trade Union to solve this situation.

During this grave situation, Nepal Trade Union Congress (NTUC) issued a press release on 24th of March 2020 and urges the government to solve those problems as soon as possible and ask to distribute the relief package for those workers and also urges to provide them food for all the daily wages workers, self-employed and informal workers and send them safely to their home. Also NTUC instructed their structure to provide the essential for needy workers and help them to send their home safely. All the structure urges government from their level to address

the workers issues and also started the campaign to distribute the essential goods and food for the workers.

After that announcement of Government of Nepal on the relief package for workers on 29th of March 2020 but that is not enough and also not address all the workers issues which we raised. After announcement of relief package by Government of Nepal, NTUC has sent 7 points letter to Mr. Ishwor Pokharel who is the Deputy Prime Minister of GoN and the coordinator of High – Level Coordination Committee for the Corona Prevention and Control. Seven points are as follows:

1. Ask Government to provide the essential goods (Health instrument, Mask, Personnel Protective Equipment PPE) to the health workers as the WHO standard and also urges to arrange the enough goods for future.
2. Ask to collect the data in the local level of daily workers, Self-Employed Workers and informal work and ask to provide the daily wages during the lockdown period and also ask to provide the relief fund in coordination with Trade Union and Workers.
3. Ask Government to increase the insurance amount of health workers and also ask to provide the insurance service to all the health workers.
4. Government announced to distribute the salary of unit level workers from welfare fund of unit level and there is no clarity for the unit level worker where is unit level welfare fund is not available so requested to clarify it.
5. Ask Government to bring back the migrant workers from the destination who are interested to return back and arrange the quarantine facilities for them.
6. Ask government to send the workers to their destination who is stuck in different places due to lockdown.
7. Ask government for escape the room rent for workers during lockdown period.

During this grave situation, Nepal Trade Union Congress (NTUC) started many activities that are listed below.

1. Started public awareness campaign for COVID-19 through social media and also develop the flyer and poster about COVID-19.
2. Distributing instant relief package for the workers who are stuck in the different places and still stuck through our structure (Affiliates organisation, District and Provincial Committee)
3. Nepal Yatayat Mazoor Sangh and Construction and Allied Workers of Nepal also distributed such good and sent the workers to their destination from different places. Most of the daily newspaper broadcasted this news as headline and peoples are appreciated the activities.
4. Pressurize the Government to announce the relief package for the workers through the different level and social media.