

SUPPORT TO QUARANTINE CENTERS

Quarantine centers visited by TPO Nepal until June 8, 2020

STATUS OF VISIT

- TPO Nepal under UNICEF funded project reached 72 quarantine centers altogether in various districts and municipalities of province 1, province 5, Karnali province and Sudurpaschim province.
- A total of 2,986 individuals from those centers were enrolled in various form of psychosocial support(5-7% of individuals could not be enrolled due to various circumstances e.g. breastfeeding infants).
- There were 2685 males and 305 females. Among them 365 were children, and less than 1% were above 60 years.

MAJOR OBSERVATIONS

- Among 72 quarantine centers, only 1 reported having provision for psychosocial support. For rest, TPO Nepal provided psychosocial services for the first time.
- In Karnali and Sudurpaschim province, relatives of the individuals in quarantine had to bring food to the center. There was no proper management of cooking facility even if the individuals wanted to cook on their own.
- Males and females were kept in same quarantine. In one center at Kalikot, a female was kept in same room with other males.
- In quarantine centers in Karnali province, there was no proper management of water and sanitation. In some instances, people were given 2 hours time limit to use the toilet and sometimes there was only single toilet in entire quarantine center. To maintain physical distance was very difficult. Similarly, there were no masks and sanitizers.



- In quarantine centers of terai region, there was nothing to regulate heat in summer. Similarly, mosquito repellent and bed nets were not available.
- In one of the quarantine centers of Jhapa district, basic infrastructures and social distancing was well maintained.



MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- All the activities were carried out in close coordination with respective provincial governments and municipal governments.
- Psychosocial support was provided following the Psychological First Aid (PFA) principle.
- Tips and practices on stress management including self-care were provided.
- Psychoeducation in context of COVID-19 was the major focus. Informations were provided using posters and pamphlets.
- Information about the helpline service was provided.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is an urgent need to support basic facilities in Karnali province and Sudurpaschim province especially, facilities of water and sanitation along with equipment for protection such as mask and sanitizer.
- Facilities of bed nets, mosquito repellent and fans in quarantine centers of terai region needs to be ensured.
- There was a huge gap related to psychosocial support. Hence, a provision of psychosocial support in quarantine centers is recommended.

