**2nd Report on COVID-19 – Nepal**

**Nepal trade Union Congress (NTUC)**

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

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| **Cases** | **Total** | **Remarks** |
| Total Test | 4426 |  |
| Positive | 12 | 3 Positive cases found today who are Indian citizens |
| Go back to Home after Treatment | 1 |  |
| Negative | 4417 |  |
| New sample collected | 897 |  |

The Government of Nepal was extended the lock down period 3rd time till 15th April 2020. Most of the Informal and self-employed workers are still suffering badly day by day and also stuck in the different places in all over the country and they do not have work and suffering from hunger. Workers are left for their home by foot for food even the lock down is in progress. Thousands of Migrant Workers are still in the quarantine at border points as India-Nepal border closed to prevent spread of COVID-19. It is uncertain how long the situation would last.

As we informed you last week,After the continuous appeal and pressure of trade unions and social activists to the government to prevent this sector from starving as soon as possible, the government has announced some plans in the name of relief packages 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 Minster of GoN and the coordinator of High – Level Coordination Committee for the Corona Prevention and Control. Which we have already informed you.

Workers however, have not been able to access relief. Municipalities are focusing on their own residents rather than workers in need – who tend to be residents from other districts/municipalities/provinces. Procedures for accessing relief also need to be made transparent while trade unions should be involved by municipalities in relief distribution. Specific groups are at more risk than others. Health workers for example, do not have access to PPEs in practice. Situation is terrible for informal workers, construction, and tourism sector, self-employed who have been first to be affected by socioeconomic shock of COVID-19. If we are thinking for the upcoming situation, Formal workers are at high risk to lose their job due closer of industries and we assume that at least 50 thousand Nepalese workers will lose their job in the in the middle east and it will be unbalance the overall situation of labour. So we are repeatedly urges the government to coordinate with trade unions and other stockholders to betterment of workers and also finalise the specific relief packages for workers and start the distribution as soon as possible through the province and municipality level instead of federal Government.

Delay of distribution of relief packages may increase the crime in the society and it will be another challenges for the government for upcoming day.

In the meantime, Government has decided to open industries of essential services and we NTUC strongly recommend the government for ensuring safety & health of all the workers and also take all the responsibility during the period.

We are also developed a Reporting format to collect the activities done by our structure in different level (Affiliates Union, Provincial Committee & Districts Committee). We are also declared a Focal Person for each Province from the NTUC’s Secretariat and instructed them to coordinate with the provincial president for further assistant and work. Also decided to deposit Nrs. 100,000 in the Prime Minister Relief Fund immediately.

We will get back to you soon with other update and activities report.