

COVID-19 Operation: 7 to 7 Vaccination

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has been continuously working on COVID-19 preparedness and response operation since the early phase of the COVID-19, in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and its member, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and non-movement partners as well as other stakeholders. NRCS COVID-19 preparedness and response in early phases included live-saving actions, support for the establishment/management of isolation centers, and responses focused on risk communication and vaccination for all 77 districts in Nepal.

Nepal Red Cross Kathmandu District Chapter is one of the chapters involved in implementing the COVID-19 operation from the beginning of the pandemic and has played a vital role in supporting the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

In January 2021, when the government of Nepal rolled out the COVID vaccination campaign in the country, NRCS continued supporting the government's campaign. The NRCS mobilized Red Cross volunteers to vaccination centers to manage queues, registrations and disseminate vaccination information to the public.

Pravina, Program Officer of the NRCS, Kathmandu District Chapter, says, "As part of COVID operation, we conducted a quick survey in the cities regarding the vaccination. We found out that many people wanted to get vaccinated, but the vaccination timing (10 am – 5 pm) was not feasible for working groups, mainly for daily wage earners, employees, and even students. They had to wait in a long queue, so they heisted going to vaccination centers."

Based on the survey, the NRCS team coordinated with the government and IFRC to address the needs of the public and began to provide vaccination service from 7 am to 7 pm for all seven days. The NRCS mobilized two technical and eight Red Cross volunteers to assist in the vaccination centers with health desks, registrations, information dissemination, vaccine administration, counselling, and feedback collection services.

Throughout the vaccination period, the NRCS received many queries and feedback related to vaccination in its Hotline service. Mostly, people interrogated about the vaccination timings and availability and shared their experiences of getting vaccinated.



Among volunteers mobilized in the 7 to 7 vaccination camp, Nisha Ali Khan was one of the Red Cross volunteers from the Muslim community in Nepal. In the Muslim community, females are usually not encouraged to engage in extra activities outside their homes. Still, with her parents' support, Nisha volunteered with Red Cross throughout the vaccination campaign.

During the campaign, the NRCS Kathmandu District Chapter focused on disseminating vaccination-related information through different units, including their subchapters and volunteers. They mobilized volunteers, used Public Service Announcements for information dissemination, and encouraged the public to address their queries through the Red Cross's Hotline service.

The Red Cross team received many feedback and queries on the Hotline. The questions were mainly related to vaccine availability, types, and effects.

"I am grateful for the 7 to 7 vaccination camp. I could visit the camp after the office and get vaccinated. It was easy and accessible," says one of the females who had received the vaccination from the camp.

Alongside vaccination, the Red Cross team also prioritized communicating about the risks of staying unvaccinated in the communities. They used different messaging techniques in communities to build people's trust in vaccination and reduce vaccine hesitancy among the public. They also conducted mobile vaccination camps in various locations to make vaccination easily accessible for everyone, including old age and left-out groups and supported the government in COVID-19 data management and data entries.

22,710 people had registered and received vaccination in the 7 to 7 camps. The camp was beneficial for the population of students, employees, wage earners, passers-by, and migrants. Many migrant workers awaiting their visas took the booster doses from the camp. The 7 to 7 vaccination camp helped many people to get vaccinated and prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Nepal Red Cross Society providing mobile vaccination service.

