

COVID-19 UPDATES | ASIA

Shanti; Nepal Christian Relief Services | Nepal

Nepal has been in complete lockdown since March 24th. So far, three cases of Covid-19 have been identified; one is already recovered, and two are receiving medical treatment. Many more are suspected to carry the virus and are in quarantine. Although the government is doing its best to fight the pandemic, the country lacks testing kits and adequate resources to diagnose cases. The present situation in Nepal provides ample evidence that the country is at high risk if the virus continues to spread.

As a Humanitarian Relief Response Organization, Nepal Christian Relief Services (NCRS) has been praying and seeking possible ways to support our community and the nation in this critical situation. Shanti Nepal has ceased office and project activities and are working from home. Safety measures have been recommended to staff and their families as they continue to monitor the situation and keep in close communication. As a health organization, they hope to be able to support the local government by raising awareness and running the help desks at the ward/municipal level as needed. Please keep Shanti Nepal staff and their families in your prayer as they join in praying for you all.

Hindustani Covenant Church | India

The whole nation of India has been impacted by the pandemic. Domestic flights and railways have been suspended till April 14th. Shopping malls, theatres, markets, and places of public gathering have been shut down. State borders are closed to vehicles. Public transportation has been stopped. The poor, however, are being impacted the most. Approximately 410 million daily wagers are without a job while the lockdown exists. Those who are homeless have no place to hide as the whole nation is trying their best to shelter at home. Tests for the virus are unaffordable by the impoverished, which further increases their vulnerability.

Maharashtra is the most affected state in India. The people here are in a state of trauma--especially those living in the slums. Their small businesses have been forced to close, and daily labor work has ceased. Now, they must depend upon the mercies of others for survival. Despite the Prime Minister's call to support the most impoverished in the nation, we have heard of no cases in response to this call. We are yet to hear about any special action from the government to help poor people endure this situation.

HCC/ CSS is committed to providing slum dwellers in Maharashtra impacted by the crisis with facemasks, soap, sanitizer and relief kits. They are considering responding also with rations, vegetables, micro financial support which may help the poor to survive this crisis.

ISACC | Philippines

ISACC has now become a quarantine station for four stranded people: a Brazilian couple, a Filipina who just married an American in Singapore and both were sent back to their respective countries of origin, and a male nurse under self-quarantine. He is exhausted and depressed from his work at the Heart Center, where doctors have died and hundreds of hospital staff have been infected. He ended up in ISACC after being refused lodgings by condominiums. I hope that our four guests do not infect each other.

Although we are not a relief agency and therefore do not usually issue such things, we are asking for donations for those who are starving -- daily wage earners with 'no work, no pay' jobs, vendors, pedicab drivers, etc. Story after story has moved us to do whatever we can. It is likely that the lockdown will extend beyond April. The village where ISACC is located hosts many pockets of poor communities, and many of our church members are also poor.

We appreciate abundant prayer as we try to respond to this extraordinary situation that is impacting our people.

Good Roots Community Center | East Asia

We stayed home for two months because of the virus. During this time, no one was allowed to their front door. There are no cases of the virus in Yangqu; the prevention work in every community is very good, so we are all safe.

On March 2nd we went back to work. Our main priority is to disinfect everything. Every book in the library must be cleaned—we have now disinfected sixty percent. We also distributed 10,000 pairs of donated gloves to schools in the area.