**Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human rights of young people [HEALTH SECTOR]**

The impact of the COVID-19 among children have been observed in Nepal severely. Data shows that one out of five children between the ages of 2 to 4 years in Nepal is not developing on track amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, new data from UNICEF shows. The pandemic has especially affected the health, learning and psychosocial well-being of the children. ([UNICEF 2021](https://www.unicef.org/nepal/press-releases/covid-19-pandemic-worsens-disparities-young-childrens-development-and-learning-nepal)) Apart from discontinue of the regular school and educational activities, many children were affected by COVID-19 and health service-related activities in Nepal. As per the latest data available (13 February 2022), COVID-19 death cases reported in Nepal as following;

* 0-9 aged : 51
* 10-19 aged: 57
* 20-29 aged: 375
1. **What role have the young people had in COVID-19 response, vaccination, and recovery efforts in your country?**

Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health and Population basically focused on youth people mobilization for the prevention, response and management of the COVID-19 in Nepal. Following activities has been conducted in the COVID-19 response, vaccination and recovery efforts;

* Risk Communication and community engagement strategy was adopted to engage young people to increase the awareness and behavior change of young peoples.
* Engaging youth networks to reach out to children, teachers, parents and surrounding community members, promoting correct information about COVID-19, vaccination as well as good behaviors terms of hygiene and basic health care.
* Different youth societies and health professionals, health workers, young peoples and associations were mobilized for risk communication, address misinformation & disseminate information about COVID-19.
* Youth volunteers, Case Investigation and Contract Tracking (CICT) teams has been mobilized to screen COVID-19 cases, quarantine, early detection, isolation of the cases.
* Young health professionals were mobilized to contribute to data collection and monitoring to assess the COVID-19 response in Nepal.
1. **What measures is your country Government taking to value/ encourage the role of youth in COVID-19 response, vaccination, and recovery efforts?**

Engaging youths in various public health & social measures interventions, community engagement and risk communication strategies has been adopted to encourage the role of youth in COVID-10 response, vaccination campaign and recovery efforts. Some examples are;

* Case investigation and contact tracing teams (CICTTs) were formed and mobilized at local level to work on case investigation and contract tracing activities at local level.
* Mobilization of youth groups to conduct community-based activities such as decontamination, isolation center management, and other local interventions of chain break of COVID-19.
* Utilization of youth networks and circle; youths were mobilized for accessing information on COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.
1. **What measures is your Government taking to support young people and ensure the full implementation of their rights during and after the pandemic? Please provide examples of policies and programmes adopted to this end, in particular regarding.**

Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health addressed young people’s health difficulties by implementing various health interventions in Nepal to ensure the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical mental health and overall well-being. Following are the major initiatives.

* Providing free counselling services and risk communication activities via toll-free call centers to support young, children and other peoples.
* Developed COVID-19 Mental Health & Psychological Support interventions to draw adequate attention to mental health and psychosocial support services in the national emergency response.
* Provide vaccination services to the young and children to break the chain of COVID-19 transmission. Government of Nepal has initiated COVID-19 vaccination campaign. As of 13 February 2022, 86.0% of 12-17 years aged child and young peoples are vaccinated at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 40% of same aged population has been vaccinated with full dose.
* Various protocols and guidelines have been endorsed and implemented to ensure the continuity of the basic health care services such as immunization, family planning services. E.g.: Interim Guidelines for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Services during COVID-19, Guideline on Management Protocol of Children with COVID-19, Interim Guidance for the Health-related Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy of persons with COVID-19 in Acute Care Settings, Interim guidance for Immunization services during COVID-19, Interim Directive for the Operation of Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers during the Covid-19,
* Various COVID-19 response related guidelines were formulated to protect young peoples, Public Health Standards, Smart-lockdown guideline, Flyers on COVID-19, IEC materials to reduce your risk of Coronavirus Infection, Infographic, Health Sector Emergency Response Plan, COVID-19 Pandemic, and technical guidance and advisories has been issued.