**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEPAL**

**1. Please elaborate on measures taken by national, federal, provincial or local governments to ensure persons are protected from the virus at their home or place of living:**

1. **Has your country declared a prohibition on evictions? If a prohibition was declared, indicate its legal basis and how long it will last. Please specify if it is a general prohibition and if it also applies to persons living in informality or in informal settlements. Is the prohibition of evictions restricted to tenants or mortgage payers who have been able to pay their rent or serve their mortgages, or broader?**

The government of Nepal decided on April 8, 2020 that [no evictions](https://mof.gov.np/uploads/news/file/COVID-19%20%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%A4%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BE_20200331124158.pdf) to be done as per the “Infectious Disease Act, 2020 [(Sankraamak Rog Ain, 2020](http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/np/archives/category/documents/prevailing-law/statutes-acts/%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%95-%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%97-%E0%A4%90%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6%E0%A5%A8%E0%A5%A6)). This will be applicable till the lockdown period. In addition to this, the government has even decided to urge the landlords to lay off a month’s rent to the tenants who are working as labour and not associated to any registered entities. The government shall not charge any tax on such excused rent amount. It does seem like the prohibition of eviction is applicable to tenant only as it quotes: “The landlords who have provided their houses on rent are directed by the government of Nepal not to evict the tenants during the period of lockdown.”

1. **If no general prohibition on evictions was declared, please indicate how many evictions have taken place, the number of people affected, and the specific details of time, location and reasons.**

There is no such data available on the number of families evicted during the COVID-19. There has been reported incidents in Kathmandu where 20 doctors were forced to leave their rented rooms because they worked in hospital where COVID-19 patients were detected.

1. **Have any measures been taken to ensure that households are not cut-off from water, heat or other utility provision when they are unable to pay their bills?**

The government has requested Nepal Electricity Authority to extend the date of payment till end of lockdown and not to charge any fine for the delay. In addition, any household consuming upto 150 units of electricity shall get 25% discount for that period. The decision doesn’t mention such provision for water and other household utilities. (Reference: [Press release](https://mof.gov.np/uploads/news/file/COVID-19%20%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%A4%20%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BE%20%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BE_20200331124158.pdf), Cabinet decision)

**2. Please provide any information about other legal or financial measures aimed to ensure that households do not lose their home if they cannot pay their rent or mortgage payments? Have any other tenant protection measures been adopted in response to the pandemic?**

The government has directed financial institutions to extend the deadlines of the loan instalments ending in the lockdown period till end of Fiscal year which is mid of July 2020. The financial institutions were also directed to provide 10% exemption on the interests from start of lockdown on 23 March till Mid-April 2020. This has continued till end of lockdown. This rule will be applicable to all the individuals affected by the pandemic. (Reference: [Press release](https://mof.gov.np/uploads/news/file/Press%20Release_20200331092750.pdf), Ministry of Finance)

**3. What measures have been taken to protect persons living in informal settlements, refugee or IDP camps, or in situation of overcrowding from COVID-19?**

The government has enforced a nationwide complete lockdown from 23 March onwards. The families are not allowed to move out of their houses except for essential purposes only. Police has been deployed to control the overcrowding. The decision has been general including informal settlements, refugees or IDP camps.

**4. What measures have been taken by authorities to ensure that migrant and domestic workers housed by their employers continue to have access to secure housing during the pandemic and in its aftermath? If migrant workers left their place of work to return to their place of origin, what measures were taken to ensure their right to housing?**

There has not been special decision for such workers housed by their employers to ensure their access to secure housing during the pandemic. But the definition of unorganized labours in the “Infectious Disease Act, 2020” include such labours as well. Hence, the same rules and decisions were only applicable to those labour as well.

Regarding the migrant’s workers who left their place of work to return to their place of origin, the government were quite delayed in taking decisions. Many people had to walk days and weeks to reach to their destination. Lots of people used any means that they found bicycles, motorbike, trucks etc. and even travelled during night to avoid police checking. Later government closed their eyes and allowed the transport providers to mobilize their buses during evening time to carry the individuals to their destination. During such period, the precautionary rules such as social distancing was neglected, and people travelled in the overcrowded buses to reach to their place of origin.

**5. Have any measures been taken to provide safe accommodation for persons in situation of homelessness? If yes, how many persons were housed, in what form, where and for how long? How will it be ensured that persons provided with temporary accommodation will have access to housing after the crisis?**

No such provisions were made to provide safe accommodation for persons in situation of homelessness.

**6. Can you provide examples of any other measures taken or planned by national, federal, provincial or local Governments in your country to protect the right to adequate housing during the pandemic and in its aftermath?**

No additional steps were planned or taken to address by federal or provincial or local governments to protect the right to adequate housing during the pandemic and in its aftermath. But after couple of months, some authorities like National Reconstruction Authority, local municipalities and local government units continued the ongoing reconstruction works after the Nepal earthquake 2015 following the precautionary measures at field level. Also, the house construction projects at local levels were ongoing along with the other development works. The government allowed the supply of construction materials to resume the construction works.