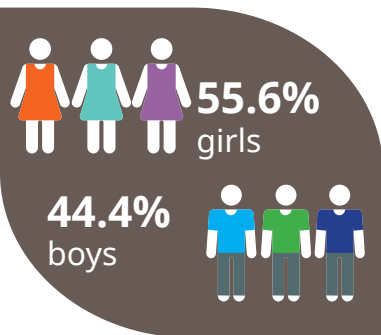
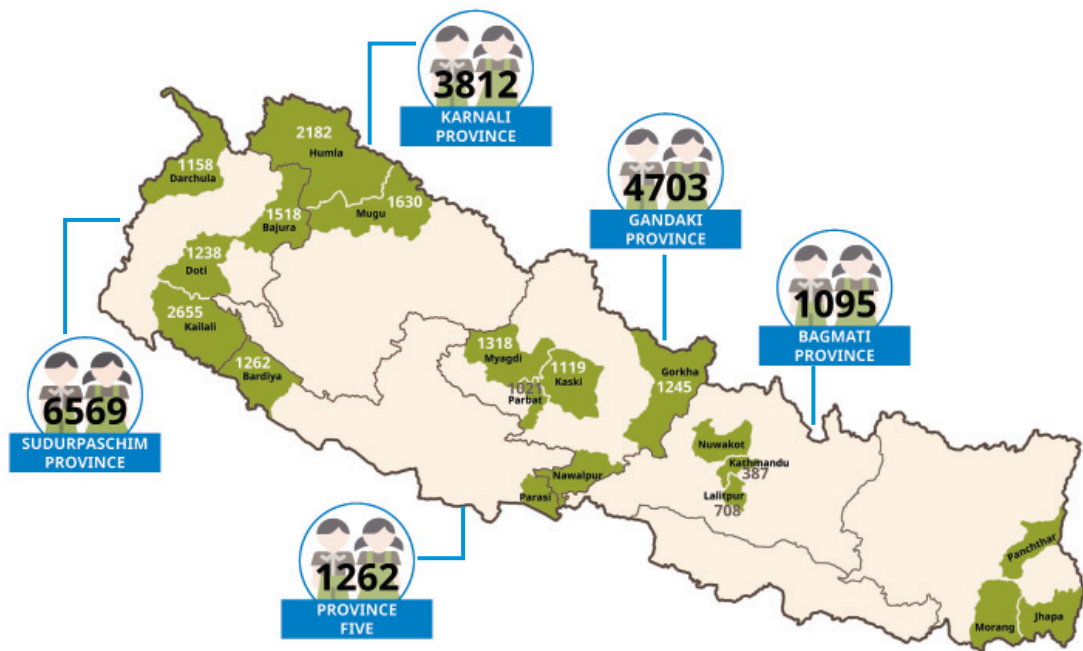


Rapid Needs Assessment

of Children
Under
COVID-19

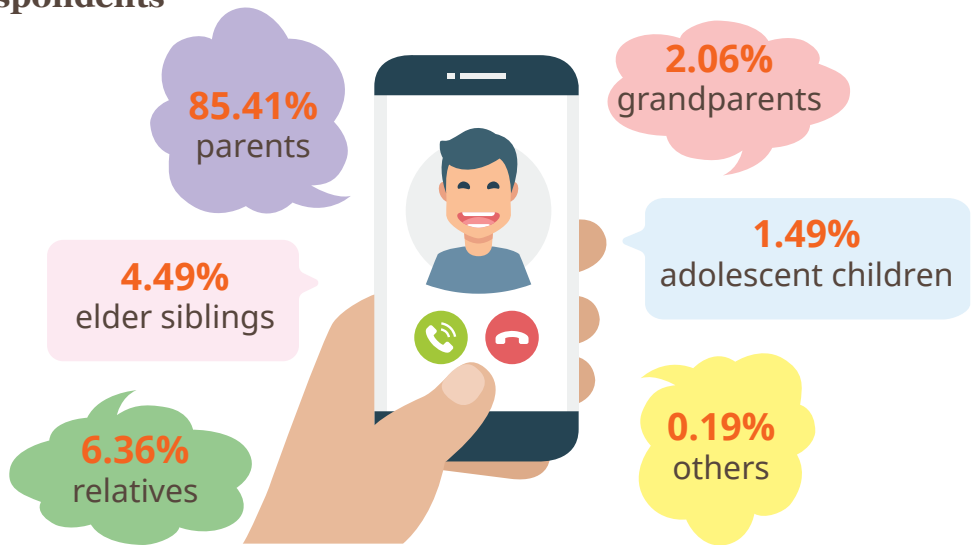


Across the world, millions of people have been affected by the novel corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic. The World Health Organization declared it a pandemic in the second week of March, 2020 and by the fourth week of March Nepal also went into lockdown and children and their families stayed indoors. Children across Nepal have not been able to attend school till now and their parents are also losing their jobs as economic activities have ground to a halt. As COVID-19 cases continue to rise every day, lockdown is likely to continue in its restricted or partial form in Nepal.



In order to assess the impact of COVID-19 on children and their families Good Neighbors International (GNI) Nepal in collaboration with its local partner organizations reached 17,441 children (boys: 7744 and girls: 9697) in 13 districts of five provinces through their parents/guardians. Sampled children are receiving support under GNI Nepal's Sponsorship Service Program. This brief report identifies potential risks and problems facing children in terms of education, health, psychosocial well-being, and protection.

Respondents



In the third and fourth weeks of May, 2020, frontline GNI Nepal staff members and community facilitators collected quantitative data using close-ended questionnaire over phone. In green zone districts (where no COVID-19 cases were recorded during the span of the study), home-visits were conducted following safety protocols.



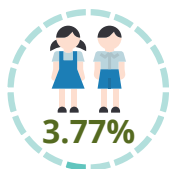
Major Findings



Living Arrangements



children are living safely with their families



children were found staying away from home for higher study, better education in city and so on

5.37% were found living alone and
94.63% were living under the care of family members/relatives/others

Health Status



of parents surveyed stated that their children have got no major health problems/issues



reported lack of sanitation materials at home



reported increasing shortage of money for health checkup



reported lack of sufficient knowledge or understanding of COVID-19

Education



of the respondents stated that their children engage in self-study on a daily basis



of the respondents reported hearing public service announcements on child protection/care and against gender-based violence

Psychosocial Wellbeing



parents/guardians noticed anger, irritability, tantrums in their children as a result of lock-down



reported loneliness, stress, loss of appetite, sleep, etc.

Child Protection



of respondents had seen violence against children/ child abuse in their community during the lockdown



73.06%
Police Station



13.30%
Child Helpline 1098



31.37%
Local Child Protection Committee



45.99%
Child Club



22.68%
Women/ Mother group

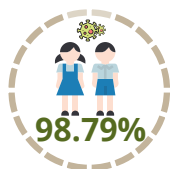


10.75%
Local NGOs

were cited as local reporting and help-seeking agencies in case of a child rights violation



Awareness



parents stated that their children are aware of COVID-19 in general

Receive information on COVID-19



Radio



Television



Social Media



Other sources



It is indeed comforting that not a single child reached has contracted COVID-19. Nonetheless, this pandemic and subsequent lockdown have affected children and their families irrespective of geography, socio-economic status, ethnicity, age and gender. As COVID-19 continues to spread rapidly across the length and breadth of Nepal, children all across Nepal face a multitude of challenges. We believe these insights will come handy in addressing the needs of Nepali children in the context of COVID-19.

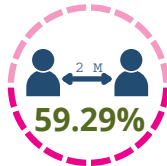
Preventive Measures



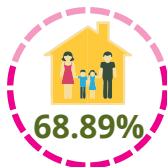
respondents washed hands at regular intervals



respondents used sanitizer



observed social distancing



mostly limited themselves to their homes and immediate surroundings

GNI Nepal has been responding to the needs of children and their families since March 2020. We have reached food insecure households with food and livelihood support, rural children with radio schooling program, central and local governments with medical equipment, non-food items and cash support, and communities with public service announcements and radio shows.

Based on the findings in this assessment, we will reach more children, their families and communities with health and WASH support and services, awareness-raising interventions, and mental health programs. All of our response will be informed by this assessment and continue until this pandemic is over.

Good Neighbors International Nepal

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