

Report on Covid-19 Relief and Advocacy Fund 2021

Awareness and capacity building on Environmental and occupational health and safety, Handover the personal protective equipment's (PPEs)

वातावरणीय एवं व्यवसायजन्य स्वास्थ्य र सुरक्षा सम्बन्धी जनचेतना तथा क्षमता अभिवृद्धि
व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षाका साधन हस्तान्तरण कार्यक्रम

Awareness and Capacity Building on Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety
Handover the Personal Protective Equipment's (PPEs)

मिति : २०७८ पौष १०, का.म.न.पा. ३१

आयोजक संस्था (Organized By)



जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्र, काठमाण्डौ, नेपाल
Center for Public Health & Environmental Development (CEPHED), Kathmandu, Nepal



Implemented by

Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED)
Kathmandu, Nepal, Tel/Fax: +977-1-5201786
Mob: +977 98033047621, Email: info@cephed.org.np

Report on Covid-19 Relief and Advocacy Fund 2021

Awareness and capacity building on Environmental and occupational health and safety, handover the personal protective equipment's (PPEs)

Background:

Waste workers are found to be heavily affected by ongoing COVID pandemic situation around the globe including in Nepal. They have least access to PEE and other infection control mechanism. They are not in the priority of the ongoing vaccination program as well. Additionally, they are the one who either lost their job opportunities or forced to leave their job due to restricted activities with many organizations and places. So the waste workers are under multiple pressure. Additionally, a study was done to evaluate blood lead levels (BLL) in 50 rag pickers working in selected area (Balaju and Koteshwor) of Kathmandu, Nepal and found elevated level of BLL among the waste workers. The mean blood lead level among the Plastic, Metals, Papers, Paint container and electronic waste workers were found to be 12.89 µg/dL.

Thus the waste workers needs to be aware, capacitated and enabled through providing some relive and infection control package to them. The goal of the proposed Relief Fund: Enhance capacity of Waste Workers through awareness and enabling support of PPEs and Infection safety package

Objectives:

- (a) Awareness and Capacity building: Awareness and capacity building of the waste workers on Occupational Health and Safety, sanitation and hygiene, chemical safety including BLL and infection control measures.
- (b) Provide the PPE and Infection control package: PPE, mask, Gloves etc. will be provided to 65 Waste Workers.

Following methodology were adopted to fulfill the objectives of the project.

- 1. Awareness and Capacity building on Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety:** The waste workers were made aware about their occupational and environmental health and safety, personal sanitation and hygiene including hand washing, nail cutting, mensuration hygiene, exposure to toxic chemicals etc. thus help to understand the health and environment impact and therefore raise their understanding level about the toxic chemicals, COVID etc. thus built their capacity.
- 2. PPE Package Distribution to the waste workers: 65 most** vulnerable waste works were selected through discussion with the local ward office of the Kathmandu Metropolitan City Ward No. 31 Office and Other waste Workers Groups who found to be exposed with various infectious agencies like virus, bacteria as well as other toxic chemicals presents in the waste they daily come across and handle it. Thus they needs to be not only aware and capacitated but also enabled with the providing the Personal Protective Equipment's (PPE). 65 Waste workers were provided with the PPE package (PPE cloths, pairs Masks, Sanitizer and a pairs Gloves).

3. Advocacy for good sanitation, hygiene and Vaccination: we have seen many waste workers either employed by Government, non-government, private sectors etc. During the pandemic period, we have found these waste workers were not in priorities of getting either PPEs and/or even vaccination. Thus we have started the advocacy with the concerned government and development agencies for ensuring good sanitation, hygiene and even vaccination of all the waste workers. Due to our advocacy campaign, Kathmandu Metropolitan City has launched the special vaccination package to all the waste workers and provide them vaccine on the priority basis. As all most all waste workers participated in the workshop were fully vaccinated.

Target:

The target groups primarily were waste workers and their depending family members. Occupational and environment victims along with the concerned government agencies in respective concerned organization, health ministry, labor ministry, environment ministries and associated department and centers in case of COVID Relief program.

Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED) with the support of Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternative (GAIA) and Asia Monitor Resource Center (AMRC) organized “**Awareness and capacity building on Environmental and occupational health and safety, handover the personal protective equipment’s (PPEs)**” on 25th December 2021 at Kathmandu metropolitan city ward number 31. Where altogether 65 plus waste workers from two groups of waste workers organization were participated.

वातावरणीय एवं व्यवसायजन्य स्वास्थ्य र सुरक्षा सम्बन्धी जनचेतना तथा क्षमता अभिवृद्धी
व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षाका साधन हस्तान्तरण कार्यक्रम
Awareness and Capacity Building on Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety
Handover the Personal Protective Equipment’s (PPEs)

मिति : २०७८ पौष १०, का.म.न.पा. ३१
आयोजक संस्था (Organized By)


CEPHED
www.cephed.org.np


gaia
www.no-burn.org


ASIA
MONITOR
RESOURCE
CENTRE

जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्र, काठमाण्डौ, नेपाल
Center for Public Health & Environmental Development (CEPHED), Kathmandu, Nepal





Firstly program started by warm greeting and introduction of organizer as well as all the participants. Presentation on Environmental and occupational health and safety was done by Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director, CEPHED. Presentation started with short introduction about the organization. CEPHED was established on October 2004. The major goal of this organization is to improved environment management and public health with a vision of bridging people with science and technology for healthy living and environment safety. This organization involve in activities such as: Research, Publication, Dissemination, Policy influences, Feedback and model demonstration. It has a global linkage with IPEN, GAIA, ELAW, CEH, Toxics Link, ZMWG/EEB, WAMFD, Asian Center, ABAN, IBAS, and ANROEV. CEPHED Works is recognized all over and also serving many task force /committee formed under Government.

Mr. Sah explained about what **Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)** and **Occupation Health and Safety (OHS)** mean. He shared the results with highlight the finding of study done about the blood lead levels (BLL) among 50 rag pickers working in selected area (Balaju and Koteshwor) of Kathmandu that their blood lead level was found higher in rag pickers up to maximum 12.9 ppm. He also talked about open burning of waste and its negative impact on human as well as environment. Finally, Solid waste, its segregation and proper disposal, importance of PPE was discussed on the program with short and fruitful story of Sangu from Environmental Health, a community guide of Hesperian Foundation translated and adopted in Nepali by CEPHEd, This book was also given to all the participants.

Participants were also introduced to and aware about WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) as well as personal hygiene was presented by another learned resource person **Mr. Yogesh Shakya**. He explained about hand washing practices and demonstrated it. Participants also practiced hand washing. He explained about personal hygiene such as cutting nails regularly, menstrual hygiene, taking bath regularly and keeping the clothes as well as PPEs clean. Also explained the importance of PPEs.

And then total of 65 PPE package (pair of mask, sanitizer, pair of gloves and PPE clothes) was distributed by Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, Mr. That Bahadur Nagarkoti and Mr. Rameshwor Pokhrel.



Finally remarks from representative of Waste Workers Team Leaders as well as participants reaction were taken.

Remarks on the program was delivered by **Mr. Durga Bhujel, Team Leader of Waste Workers groups of Kathmandu Metropolitan City Ward No, 31:** He highlighted the importance of PPE and thanks to organizer and supporters GAIA for providing PPE along with the training on Waste Management, Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health as well as WASH. Raise the issues of small medical shops who send their medical waste unsegregated including sharps such as needles and found their workers have got needle pricks sometimes.



Remarks on the program was delivered by **Mr. Rameshwor Pokhrel, Team Lead of Waste Worker groups Shajha Sarsafai Aviyan.** He highlighted the issues of Private sector engagement in the waste management of Kathmandu Valley, raise the challenges of the waste management in the Kathmandu and their regular engagement in the different area of the Kathmandu Valley waste collection and management. Provided the job for the disable people etc. He appreciated the efforts of CEPHED for organizing such interesting and useful training events along with the distribution of PPEs exclusively to the waste workers.



At the end all participants were provided with environmental health, a community guide book published by CEPHED in Nepali language and the program were closed and all participants were provided with the snacks and group pictures were taken.





