



**COCAP BIWEEKLY: INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19**  
**MAY 1-15, 2020**

## INTRODUCTION

COCAP's "COVID-19 Biweekly" covers the incidents from May 1-15, 2020 related to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and incidents related to COVID-19.

From May 1-15, 2020, COCAP's Nepal Peace Monitoring Project recorded 197 incidents from across Nepal of which 50 incidents were directly related to the crisis which came along with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Majority of incidents were related to the relief distribution to people or communities in need and black marketing of goods especially at the time of panic due to lockdown. Of the 50 incidents recorded, 32 were latent incidents of protests and 18 incidents were of violent nature which injured 40 people.

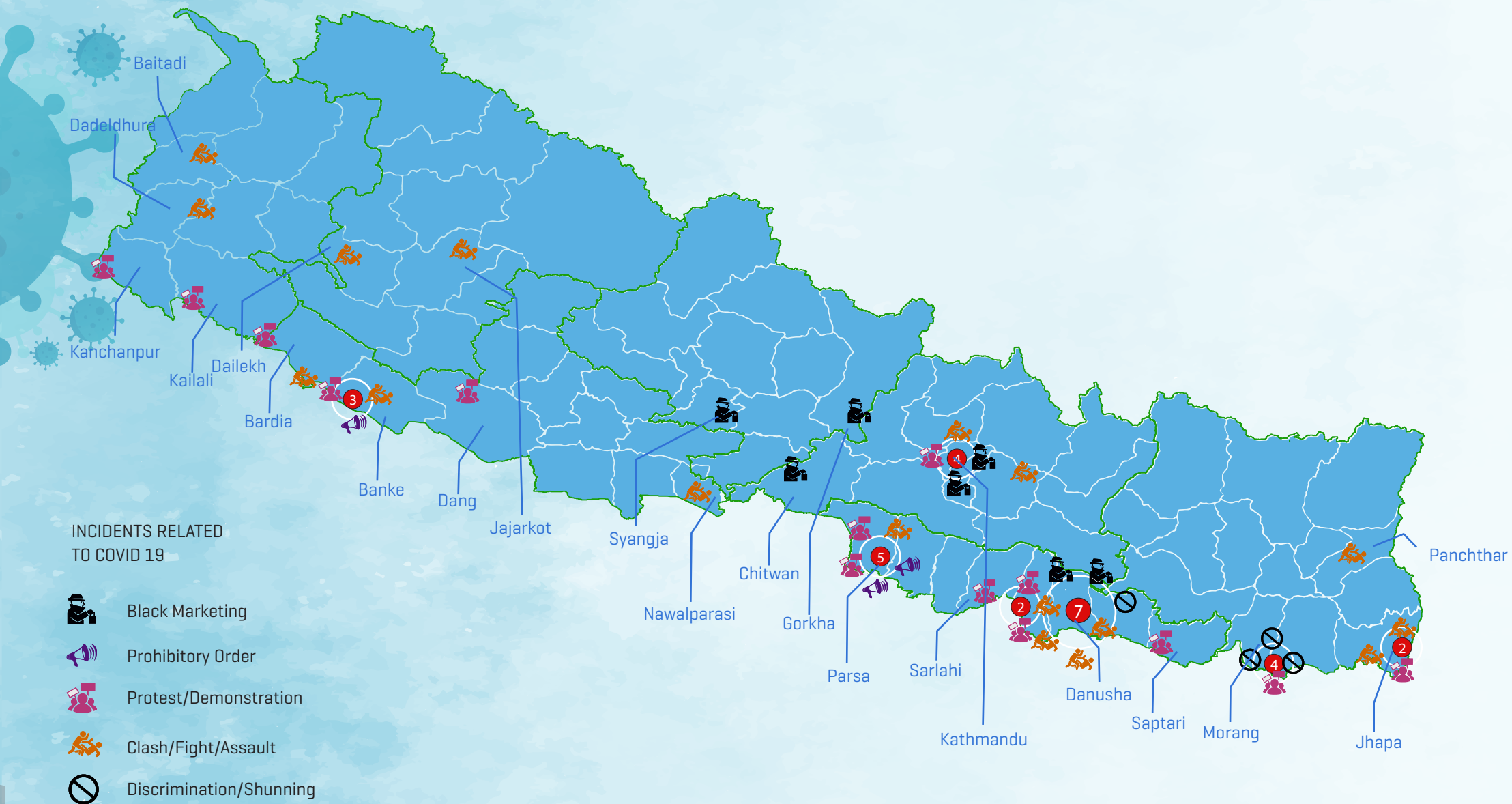
In the past 15 days, 54 incidents of GBV were recorded. In case of GBV, during the period of lockdown many women and girls might have been forced to live with their abuser but with or without the lockdown, GBV has remained a crisis in Nepali societies. According to data from the United Nations Population Fund, there might be an increase of 600 percent in the number of women who could experience domestic violence from their partner during the lockdown across the world.<sup>1</sup>

On May 12, Nepal witnessed the highest number of coronavirus with 83 positive cases across the country.<sup>2</sup> On May 15, the total number of cases reached 267 after nine people tested positive for COVID-19.<sup>3</sup>

The incidents of gender based violence, black marketing, protest related to relief distribution and clash between police are our primary focus in this report.

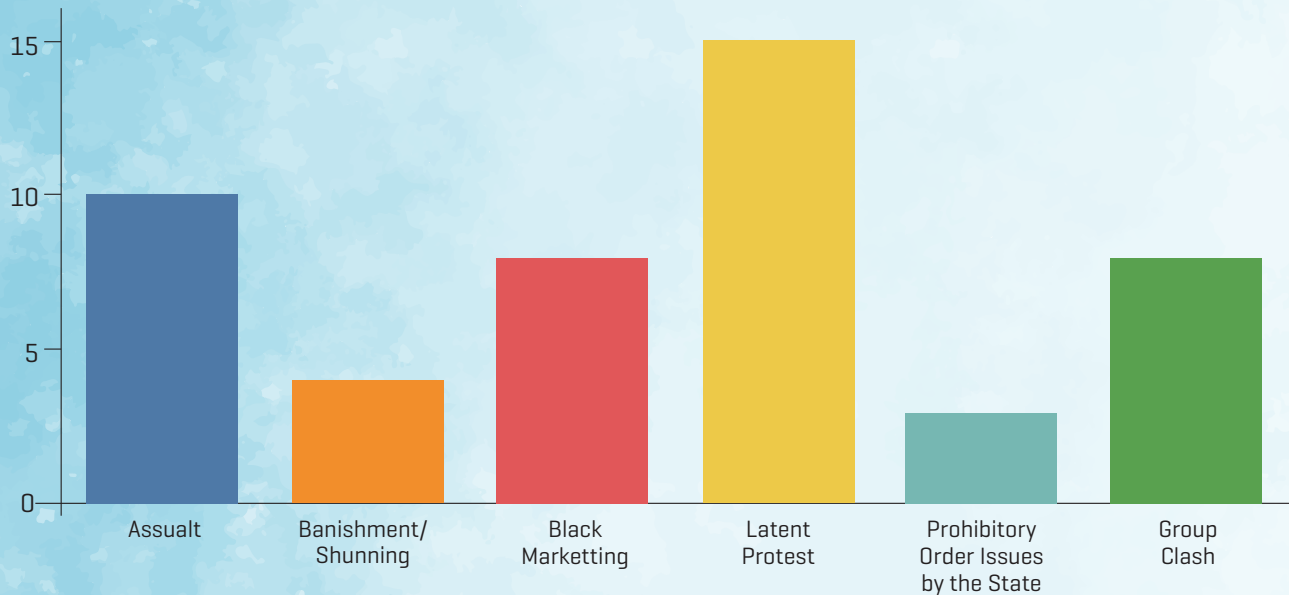


# INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN NEPAL (MAY 1-15, 2020)

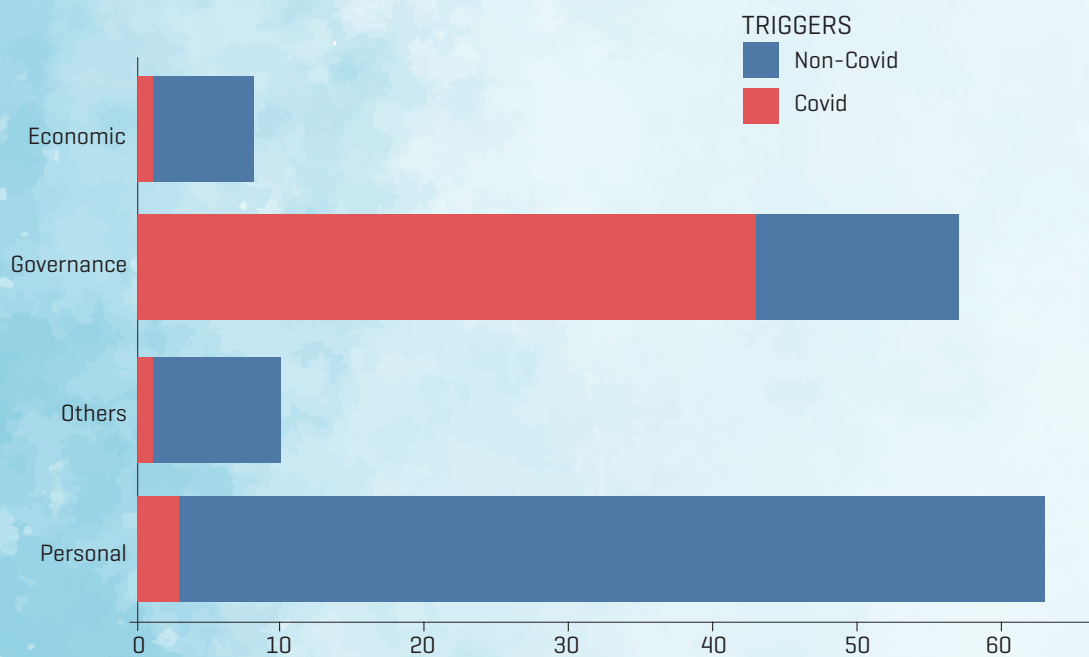


Disclaimer: This map shows incidents which were reported in the media and might not include all incidents around Covid-19 crisis across Nepal.

## FORMS OF INCIDENTS



## SHARE OF COVID-19 RELATED INCIDENTS OF TOTAL INCIDENTS



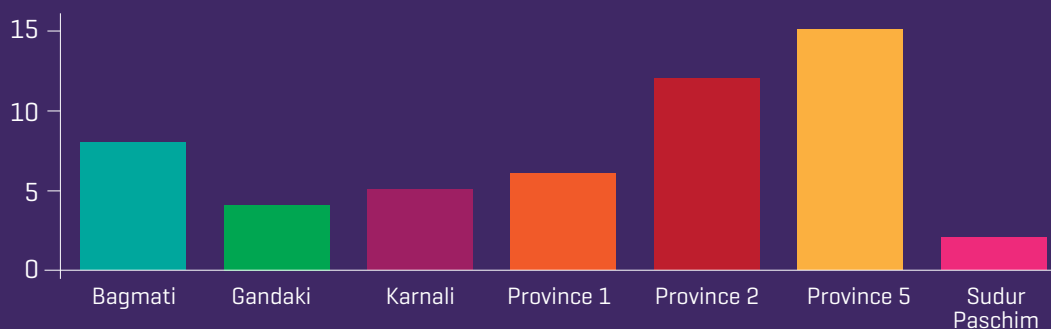
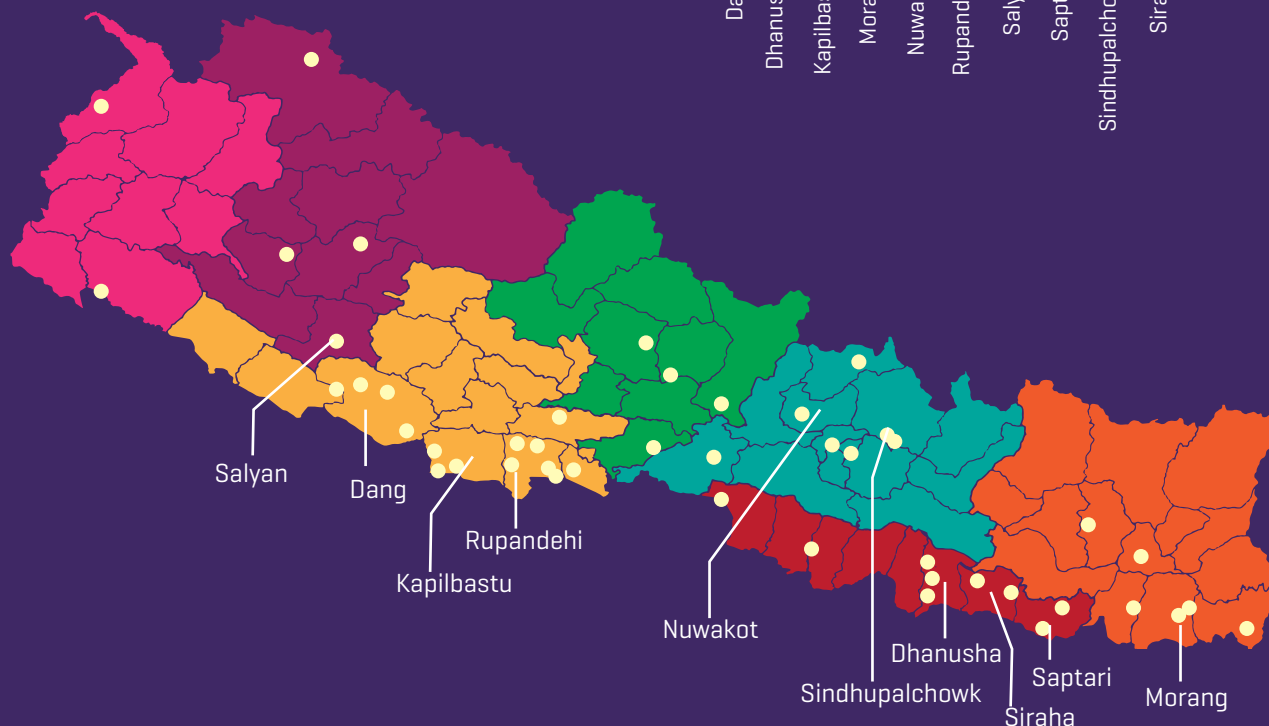
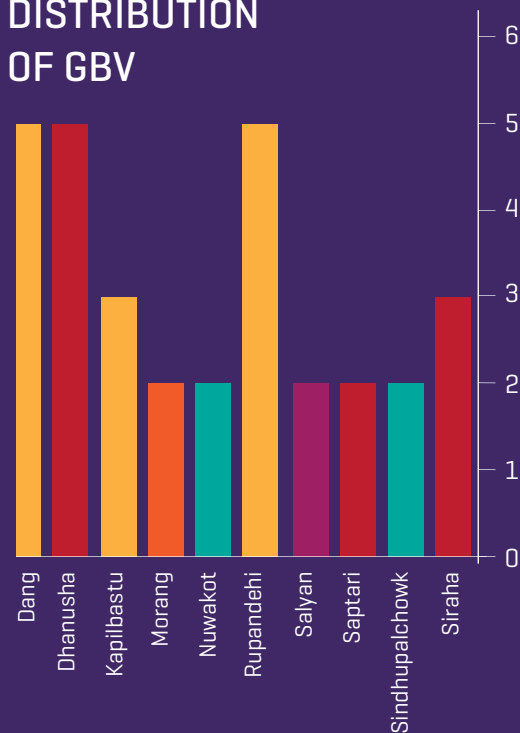
Disclaimer: This graphs are based on the media reported incidents and may not include all incidents around Covid-19 crisis across Nepal.



# REPORTED INCIDENTS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE FROM MAY 1-15

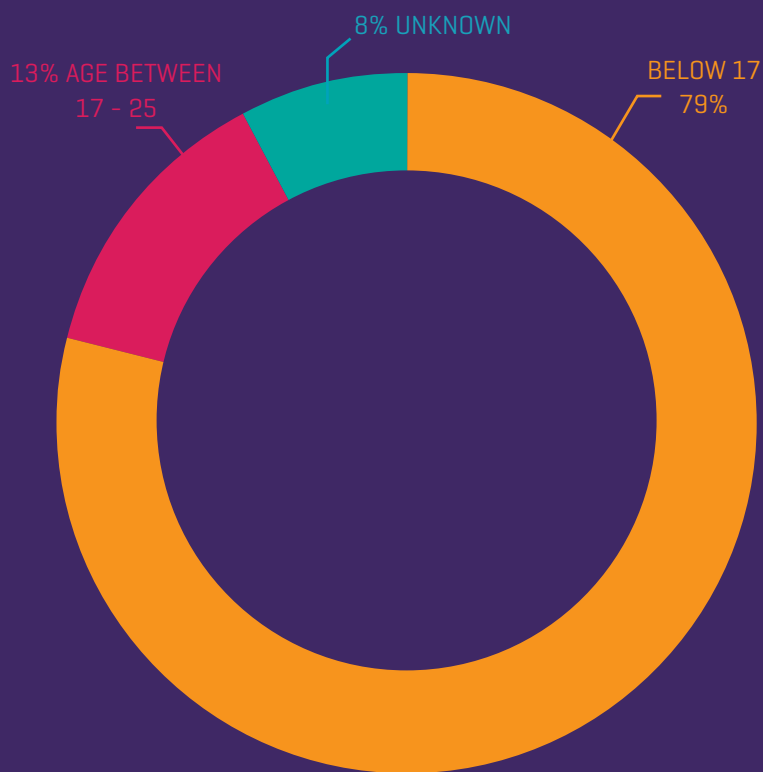
From May 1-15, 54 cases of gender based violence [GBV] were recorded including eight cases were of domestic violence, seven cases of sexual assaults, 38 cases of rape of which 35 victims were below the age of 26. In one incident, a 19 year old woman took her own life due to humiliation after her nude pictures and videos were sent to her family and friends through facebook by a 23 year old man.<sup>4</sup> The youngest victim of sexual assault was a five year old girl in Rupandehi.<sup>5</sup> Dhanusha, Dang and Rupandehi districts had the highest number of gender based violence with five cases each followed by Siraha and Kapilbastu with three cases each.

## DISTRICT WISE DISTRIBUTION OF GBV



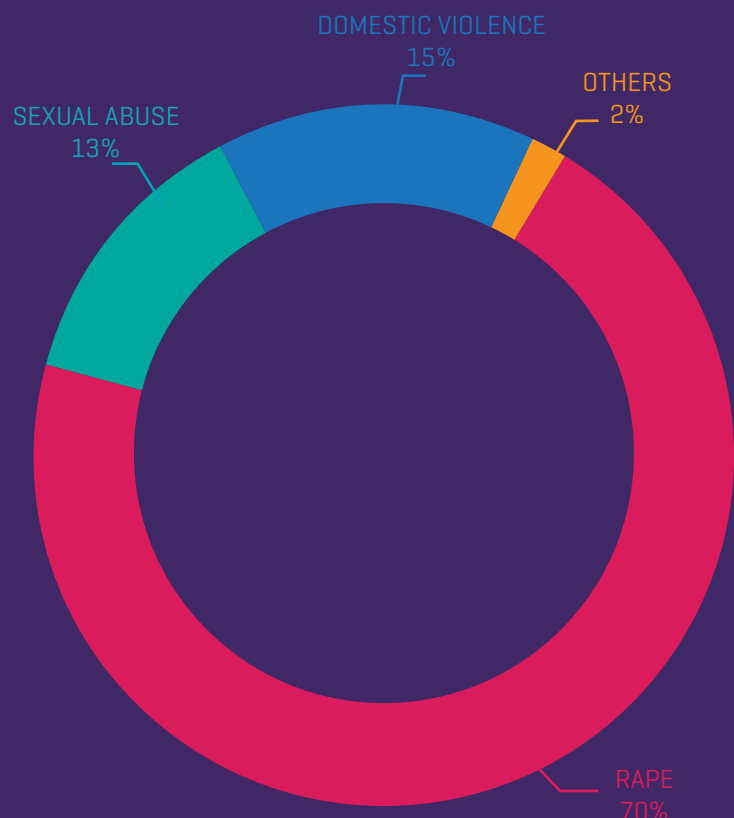
Disclaimer: The map and the graph are based on the media reported incidents only and may not include all incidents of GBV across Nepal.

## AGE GROUP OF RAPE VICTIMS



*Disproportionally higher share of children are at the risk of sexual violence in lockdown. 79% of Rape victims are under the age of 17.*

## FORMS OF GBV



Disclaimer: The charts are based on the media reported incidents and may not include all incidents of GBV across Nepal.

# BLACK MARKETING DURING LOCKDOWN

Eight cases of black marketing were recorded in which business owners were arrested and businesses fined for cheating the customers and selling goods at unreasonably high prices. In one incident local traders tried to attack the inspection team for black marketing. The Department of Commerce, Supplies, and Consumer Protection Management collected Rs. 7 million in fines from firms who were found cheating the customers for the past one and half months. As the pandemic caused fear and panic among the general public, the price increased 10 folds.<sup>6</sup> The following were the incidents recorded:

- MAY 1

An action was taken against seven businesses in Kailali for black marketing of essential goods.<sup>7</sup>
- MAY 4

A cement trader was arrested for selling cement in the black market in Janakpur.<sup>8</sup>
- MAY 7

A cement trader was arrested for selling cement at unreasonably high cost in Siraha.<sup>9</sup>
- MAY 9

The owner of Himalayan Gorkha Agro Farm Private Limited and his employee were arrested on a charge of selling chemical fertilizers with a high price in the black market.<sup>10</sup>
- MAY 11

The traders at Nayabazar, Kathmandu attacked the government's market inspection team after the business was fined with Rs. 2 lakhs and the warehouse sealed for selling expired goods and high price of sugar.<sup>11</sup>
- MAY 13

Three businessmen were arrested for black marketing essential goods during the lockdown in Biruwa - 5, Syangja district.<sup>12</sup>
- MAY 14

The local administration imposed a fine of Rs. 1000 and a month of imprisonment for the manager of Bhatbhateni Supermarket in Bharatpur of Chitwan for overcharging on products during the lockdown.<sup>13</sup>
- MAY 15

A petrol pump in Bhaktapur was fined Rs, 200,000 after they were found mixing water in diesel and selling it to the customers.<sup>14</sup>

# REPORTED INCIDENTS SURROUNDING RELIEF DISTRIBUTION DURING LOCKDOWN

At the time when the entire nation is in a complete lockdown, relief from the government or the community is a great help to ease the tension for many individuals and families. In the past 15 days there have been ten incidents of protests and padlocks in municipality offices by locals demanding relief. The incidents related to relief distribution were highest in Parsa, Dhanusha, Sarlahi, Mahottari and Siraha districts of Province 2. The incidents recorded are explained below:

<b>MAY 3</b>	Locals protested against discrimination during the distribution of relief in Janakpurdham. <sup>15</sup>
<b>MAY 4</b>	Eight people were injured including a police personnel after a dispute escalated during the distribution of relief in Siraha. <sup>16</sup>
<b>MAY 4</b>	Locals picketed Samsi Rural Municipality saying that the municipality did not distribute relief to anyone even though the locals lost their jobs. <sup>17</sup>
<b>MAY 4</b>	Locals handed over a memorandum to the District Administration Office protesting against the distribution of relief to well to do landowners in Sarlahi instead to the ones who need it. <sup>18</sup>
<b>MAY 4</b>	The locals of Jagarnathpur Rural Municipality 1, clashed with the police in a dispute regarding relief distribution accusing the local representative for distributing the relief to the cadres of its party. <sup>19</sup>
<b>MAY 5</b>	The locals of Samsi village locked the Municipality office saying that they did not receive any relief during the lockdown in Mahottari. <sup>20</sup>
<b>MAY 6</b>	Locals of Biratnagar protested demanding the second phase of relief by blocking the roads in the border area. <sup>21</sup>
<b>MAY 10</b>	Locals of Samsi village of Mahottari district locked down Rural Municipality's office as they were unable to distribute relief to daily wage workers and families in need despite their constant request. <sup>22</sup>
<b>MAY 12</b>	The ward committee of the Communist Party of Nepal [CPN] locked down the office of Dhangadhi's sub-metropolitans office accusing them of distributing low-quality rice in the name of relief. <sup>23</sup>
<b>MAY 15</b>	The locals of Bode Barsain Municipality 1, Saptari padlocked the ward office accusing the ward chairperson regarding the irregularities in the distribution of relief. <sup>24</sup>



# REPORTED INCIDENTS OF DISCORD BETWEEN POLICE AND CITIZENS DURING THE LOCKDOWN

There were six incidents related to clashes between the police and the locals. All the incidents involved violence in which three people were injured in Panchthar and Dailekh. Besides the mentioned district, incidents of clash also took place in Jhapa, Nawalparasi and Banke. Following are the incidents recorded related to clash with the police:

**MAY 4**

The Armed Police Force (APF) post in Nepal was attacked by locals demanding that they need to go to India to buy grains for farming purpose. The Nepal India border was sealed due to COVID-19.<sup>25</sup>

**MAY 5**

There was a clash between businessmen and police after they vandalized a vehicle belonging to a ward police office in Nepalgunj.<sup>26</sup>

**MAY 5**

Two rounds of bullets were fired by the police after the Indian Nationals carrying home made weapons tried to enter Nepal defying the nationwide lockdown due to COVID-19.<sup>27</sup>

**MAY 5**

The police assaulted a tractor owner for operating during the lockdown in Panchthar.<sup>28</sup>

**MAY 9**

The police assaulted the vendors selling vegetables in Bhadrapur of Jhapa violating the lockdown.<sup>29</sup>

**MAY 10**

A police constable and a local resident were injured in a clash which started when the police reached the site of a road construction with sixty people gathered around during the lockdown in Dailekh.<sup>30</sup>



## PROTESTS AND ARRESTS OF CHINESE NATIONALS DURING THE PERIOD OF LOCKDOWN

**MAY  
6**

On May 6, six Chinese nationals were arrested for illegally trying to enter China from the border point of Kerung. Later, the four male, one female and a child was sent to Kathmandu based immigration office.<sup>31</sup>

**MAY  
8**

On May 8, a clash broke out between the Chinese nationals and the police after they tried to enter the restricted zone outside Singha Durbar demanding that they should be allowed to return to China amidst the crisis of COVID-19.<sup>32</sup> Six people were injured and about 38 Chinese nationals were taken under custody by the police.



## ENDNOTES

- 1      See: WHO: If Lockdowns Go On For 6 Months, There Could Be 31 Million New Domestic Violence Cases Globally
- 2      See: 83 New COVID-19 Cases Confirmed, the Highest in a Single Day; National Tally Reaches 217
- 3      See: Nine New COVID-19 Cases Take Nepal's Tally to 267
- 4      See: Girl Takes Her Own Life After Humiliation Online
- 5      See: Indian Citizen Arrested for Sexually Abusing 5 Year Old Girl
- 6      See: Firms Slapped With Rs. 7 Million in Fines During Lockdown
- 7      See: See: Seven Businesses Fined for Black Marketing Kailali
- 8      See: Two People Were Arrested for Black Marketing of Cement
- 9      See: Traders Held for Black Marketing
- 10     See: Two Arrested for Black Marketing Fertilizers
- 11     See: Locals and traders of Nayabazar Try to Attack Market Inspection Team Monitoring Black Market
- 12     See: Three Businessman Arrested for Black Marketing
- 13     See: Bhatbhateni Supermarket Fined For Black Marketing
- 14     See: Fuel Center in Bhaktapur Fined Rupees Two Lakhs for Mixing Water in Diesel
- 15     See: Police Baton Charges Locals During Dispute Over Relief Distribution in Janakpurdham
- 16     See: Eight Injured In Dispute During the Relief Distribution in Siraha
- 17     See: Rural Municipality Office Picketed Seeking Relief
- 18     See: Protests Against Distribution of Aid to Landlords in Sarlahi
- 19     See: 9 Injured in a Clash With Police
- 20     See: Locals Padlocked Rural Municipality Office For Not Providing Relief in Mahottari
- 21     See: Locals Protest By Blocking Road Demanding Relief in Biratnagar
- 22     See: Locals Asking For Relief Locked the Rural Municipality
- 23     See: Ward 2 Office in Dhangadhi Padlocked for Distributing poor Quality Rice
- 24     See: Ward Office Padlocked in Saptari Due to Irregularities in Relief Distribution
- 25     See: Police Post Attacked in Parsa during the Lockdown.
- 26     See: Police and Local Businessman Clash in Nepalgunj
- 27     See: Police Open Blank Fire to Disperse Crowd at the border
- 28     See: Police Assaulted a tractor Driver in Panchthar
- 29     See: Police Assaulted Vegetable Vendors in Jhapa
- 30     See: Two Injured As Lockdown Violators Clash With Police
- 31     See: Six Chinese Nationals Trying To Flee Nepal Arrested At Kerung
- 32     See: Six Injured as Chinese Nationals Demanding to be Allowed to go Home Clash With Police

The PMP gathered data on violent and latent incidents past 15 days of the lockdown period by compiling reports from all major online news portals, national dailies, local newspapers from 20 districts, and incidents reports directly submitted to us. The goal of the report is to deliver an update and understanding of the incidents surrounding the pandemic of Coronavirus to better respond to the situation and to promote peace. The numbers recorded in this report are based on the reports mapped by Nepalmonitor.org.

