



COCAP BIWEEKLY: INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19

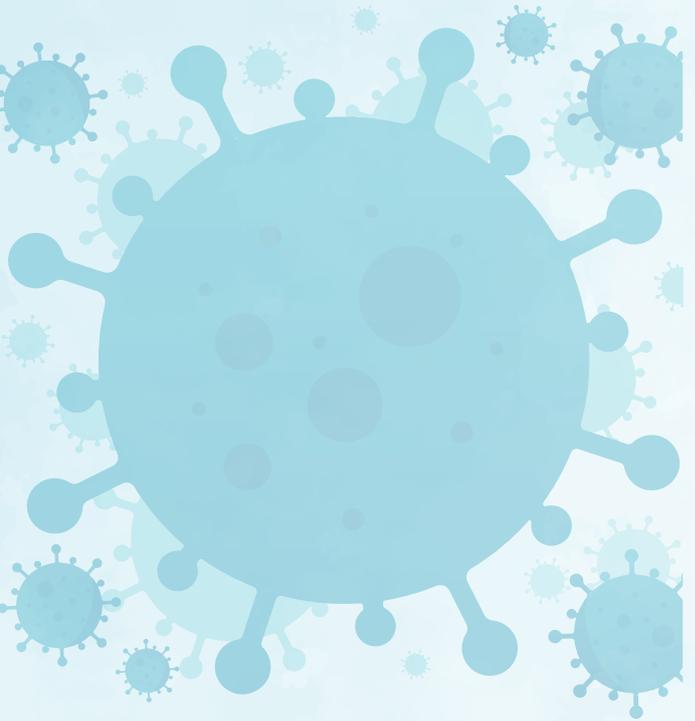
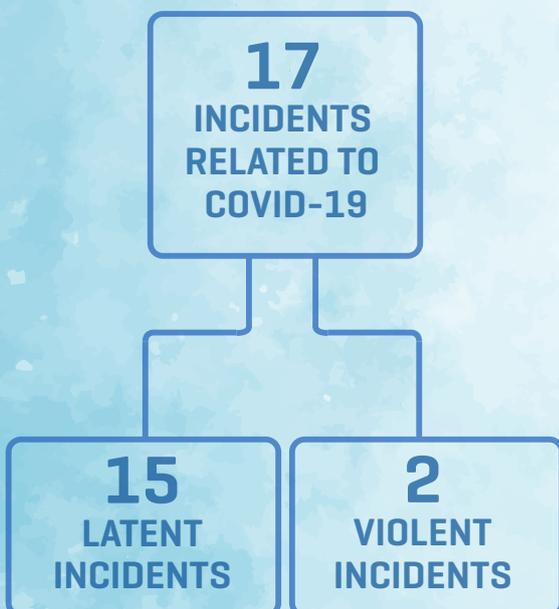
JUNE 16 - JUNE 30, 2020



COCAP BIWEEKLY: INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19 JUNE 16 - JUNE 30, 2020

COCAP's "COVID-19 Biweekly" covers the incidents related to gender based violence (GBV) and COVID-19 from June 16 - 30, 2020.

From June 16 - 30, 2020, COCAP's Nepal Peace Monitoring Project (PMP) recorded 17 incidents related to COVID-19. Majority of incidents were of protests against the government with citizens taking to the streets demanding better and efficient action to prevent the spread of COVID-19 with increased polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, need of proper management of quarantine centers and better protection of healthcare workers [See Fig: 1]. Of the total COVID-19 related incidents two were violent and 15 latent incidents of protest [See Fig 2].



From June 16-30, 45 cases of GBV were recorded in which 25 victims of sexual assault were below the age of 26. GBV itself is a crisis in our communities but the pandemic has made victims furthermore vulnerable to abuse. It is important to note that both males and females face GBV but according to our data the majority of victims are women and girls.

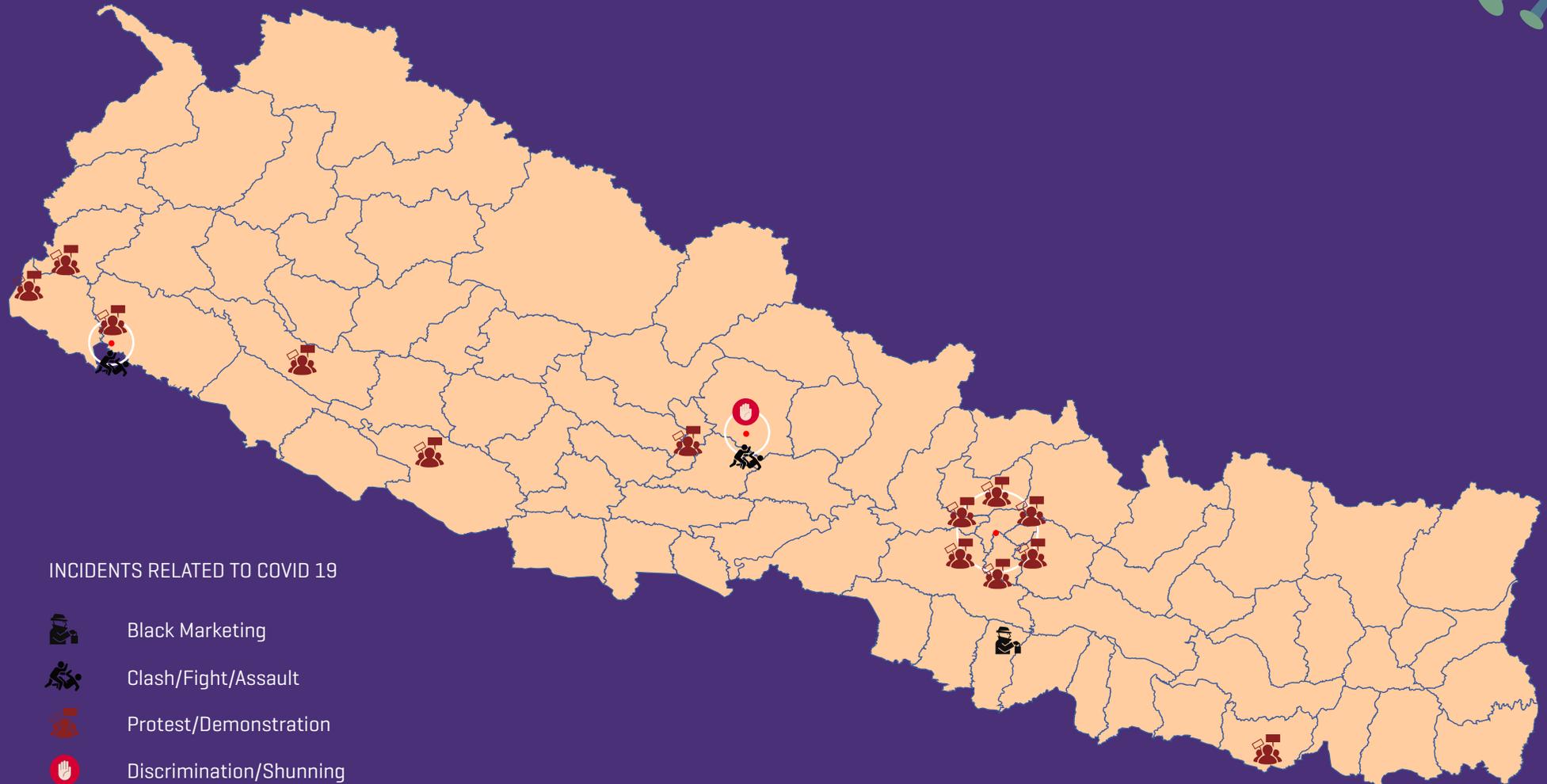
This bi-weekly report is aimed to inform our readers on the added crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic which has affected everyone's livelihood and made some group of people even more vulnerable. Until June 30, the total number of positive cases reached 13,564 with 29 deaths.¹

ATTACKS ON HEALTH CARE

45 INCIDENTS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN NEPAL (JUNE 16 - JUNE 30, 2020)



INCIDENTS RELATED TO COVID 19

-  Black Marketing
-  Clash/Fight/Assault
-  Protest/Demonstration
-  Discrimination/Shunning

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

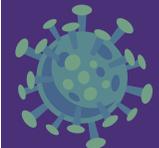
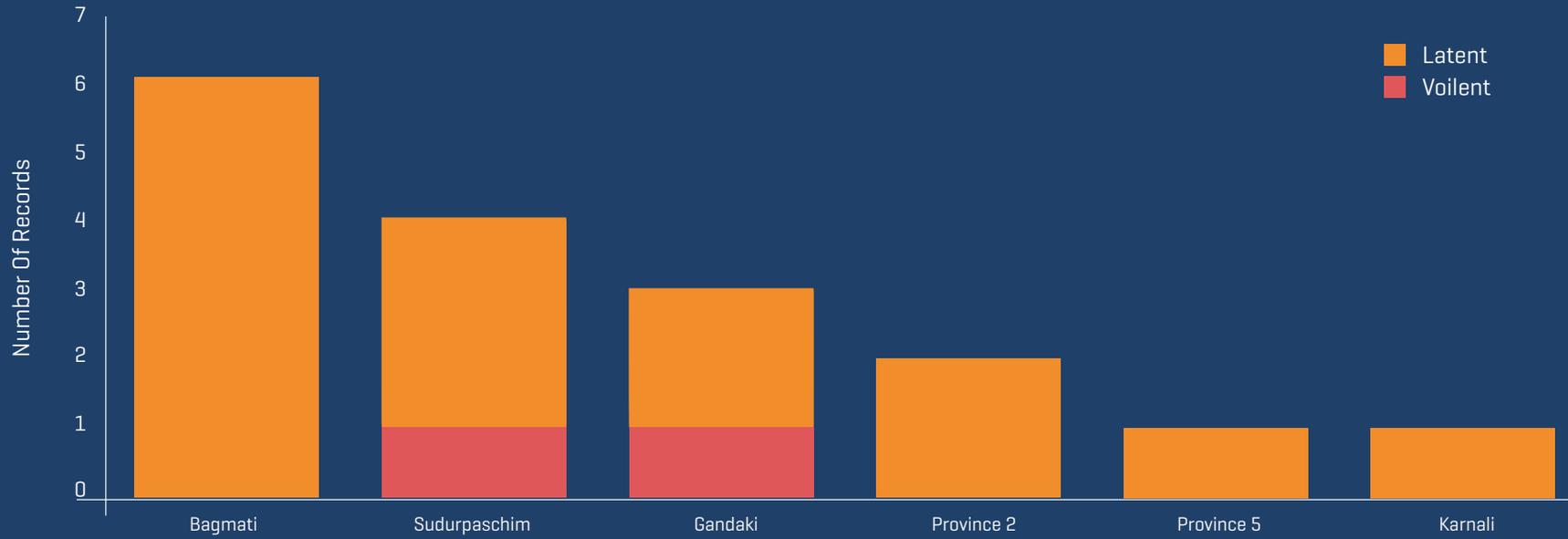


FIG -1 INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19 BY PROVINCE



INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19 BY DISTRICT

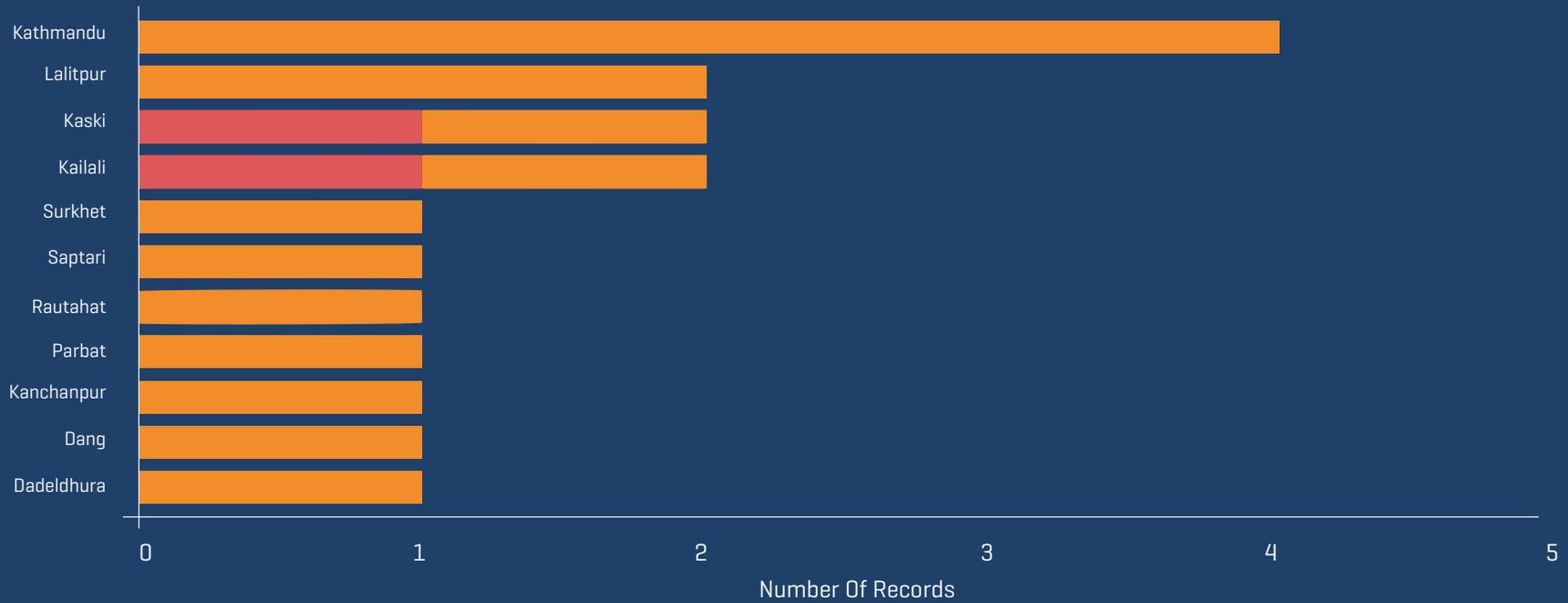
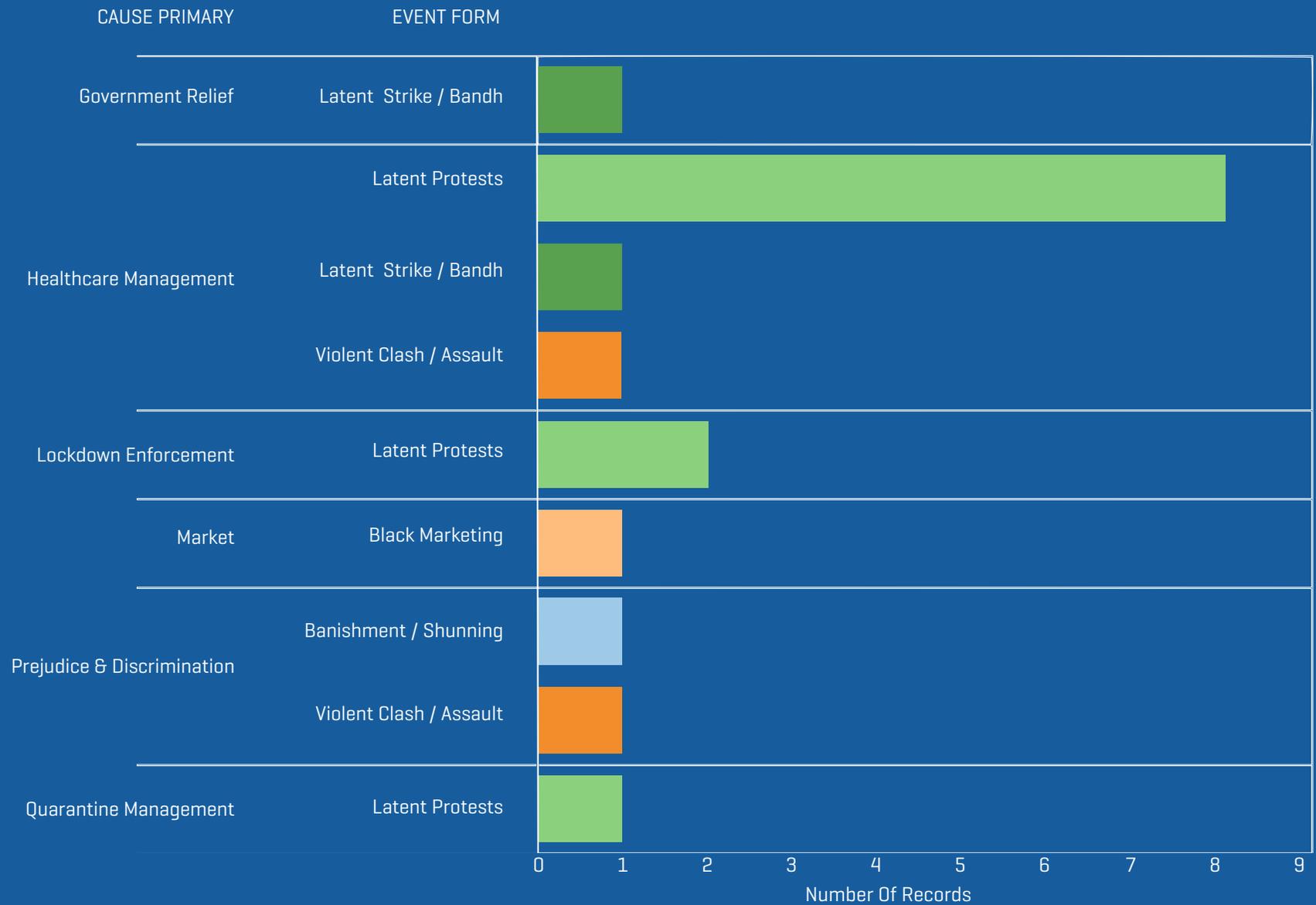


FIG -2 INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19 [JUNE 16 - JUNE 30, 2020]

ATTACKS ON HEALTH CARE WORKERS ON THE FRONTLINE

The outbreak of COVID-19 is a public health emergency and as the number of cases increased in Nepal the number of healthcare providers working in the frontline also increased accordingly. Health care workers are the most important people to fight against this crisis yet they are stigmatized and discriminated against and are often perceived as someone who could possibly spread the virus for working on the frontline or in the hospitals. Following are the incidents related to the problems faced by the health workers.

**JUNE
20**

Around two dozen health workers picketed the district administration office during a meeting of the Corona Prevention District Level Command Force demanding proper accommodation or quarantine facilities for COVID-19 infected health workers.²

**JUNE
20**

Youths associated with Sudurpaschim foundation manhandled lab technicians at the Seti Provincial Hospital who were there for the rapid diagnostic test (RDT).³ They assaulted the technician expressing dissatisfaction over their work.

**JUNE
24**

Locals protested over the issue of accommodating doctors and nurses of the regional hospital of Pokhara Institute of Health Science in a hotel in Baidam at Pokhara Metropolis 6.⁴ According to the locals, medical workers who come under direct contact with COVID-19 patients were provided residence in the hotel without consulting the locals.

**JUNE
25**

Junior doctors at the Surkhet based Karnali Provincial Hospital stopped reporting on duty except for emergencies after the government denied them their encouragement allowance for their work during the ongoing pandemic.⁵



PROTESTS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

A strict lockdown in Nepal came into effect from March 24 and the number of cases until May 28 remained under 1000.⁶ However, the cases have rapidly increased with thousands of migrant workers returning home from India after the country eased internal travel restrictions on June 1 and Nepal began loosening up the lockdown from June 15.⁷ With the growing number of cases and the government's incapacity to take action to prevent the spread of the virus has increased the level of frustration among the public. Youth across Nepal have taken to the streets to protest against the government. Following are the protests which were organized across Nepal.

**JUNE
16**

The cadres of Nepali Congress staged a demonstration against the government in Dhangadhi accusing the government of failing to take effective measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.⁸ The cadres also handed a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the Chief District Officer (CDO) demanding better condition of the quarantine centers and wider use of PCR test.

**JUNE
16**

Youths staged a silent protest in a creative demonstration at Patan Durbar Square, Lalitpur by reading books instead of holding placards or shouting slogans demanding increased effort from the government's side to prevent the spread of COVID-19.⁹

**JUNE
17**

Youths of Kanchanpur staged a demonstration demanding increased effort from the government's side to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and assurance of security of women and girls in the quarantine centers across Nepal.¹⁰

**JUNE
17**

Students from Rajbiraj, Saptari staged a protest demanding improvement in the government's policy against COVID-19.¹¹ They also demanded proper management of quarantine centers and an increase in PCR tests across Nepal.

**JUNE
20**

Youths protested at Shahid gate, Kathmandu demanding the increase of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, a need to trace the contacts of people who tested positive including health workers.¹² The protesters also demanded that quarantine centers should be safe for women and girls and people from the Dalit caste group.

**JUNE
20**

People in the quarantine center of Ashwara Secondary School in Tulsipur, Dang protested after they did not receive PCR test results even after a month of waiting.¹³ Extra police had to be called in as people in the center tried to run away vandalizing the property.

**JUNE
20**

Youths staged a protest in Narayangopal Chowk, Kathmandu demanding an increase in PCR testing, proper management of quarantine centers and also demanded that the roads in the valley should be black topped.¹⁴



**JUNE
22**

Nepal Student Union (NSU) Dadeldhura staged a demonstration at the district headquarter Bagbazar, Kathmandu demanding the need for isolation wards at every local level of the districts.¹⁵

**JUNE
30**

Over 300 taxi drivers staged a protest at Minbhawan, Kathmandu demanding that they should be allowed to resume services which had been halted since March 24.¹⁶ The prolonged lockdown has made it difficult for taxi drivers to make ends meet.

HUNGER STRIKE BY SOCIAL ACTIVIST AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

On June 26, a social activist known by the name of "lih", started a fast unto death strike in Patan by putting forward 11 demands under the "enough is enough" campaign against the government's inefficiency in dealing with the pandemic.¹⁷ The demands include:

- **Expansion of PCR tests**
- **Rectification of Quarantine Strategy**
- **End to corruption on life and death issues**
- **Protection of frontline health workers**
- **Enhancement of medical capacity**
- **Optimum use of existing resources**
- **Implementation of the Supreme Court decision on COVID-19 crisis**
- **Discontinuation of rapid diagnostic test (RDT)**
- **Clarity on guidelines for easing lockdown**
- **Transparency and accountability in COVID-19 related purchase**
- **Relief for vulnerable migrants, working class and marginalised communities**



BLACK MARKETING OF FERTILIZER

**JUNE
30**

On June 30, police arrested a person from Chandrapur municipality 1, Rautahat on the charge of selling chemical fertilizer by charging a high amount.¹⁸

ATTACK ON POLICE POST

**JUNE
26**

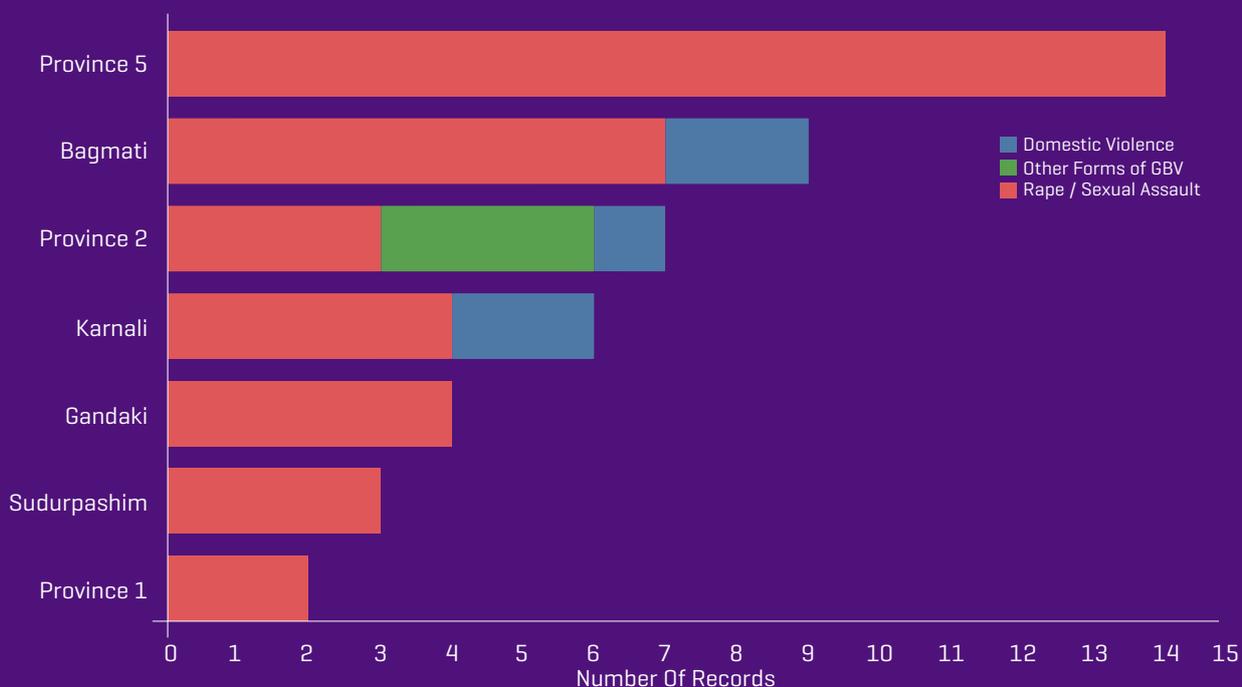
On June 26, residents of Pokhara vandalized a police check post demanding the authorities to withdraw from their decision to bury the body of a man in their area who had tested positive for COVID-19.¹⁹

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE WORSEN DURING THE PANDEMIC

Amidst the crisis of COVID-19 with a nation wide lockdown confining oneself at home can force many to live with their abuser making women and children most vulnerable to domestic violence and abuse. According to UNWomen's data about 243 million women and girls aged 15 - 49 have been subject to sexual and physical violence in the past 12 months.²⁰ Similarly, since the outbreak of COVID19 cases of domestic violence have intensified across the globe.²¹ In Nepal, every ten minutes, a woman dials 1145, a helpline operated by the National Women Commission seeking for support services offered by the commission or report an incident of abuse.²²

In the past fifteen days, 45 cases of gender based violence(GBV) were recorded from across Nepal in which 25 women girls who were the victim rape were below the age of 26 [See Fig: 3]. The cases of GBV are likely to be much higher as the reporting of cases in the media has decreased due to the lockdown and lack of accessibility to report the case.

FIG -3 REPORTED INCIDENTS OF GBV BY PROVINCE



ENDNOTES

1. See: Kathmandu Valley Sees 12 New COVID-19 Cases
2. See: Health Workers Picketed District Administration Office Demanding Proper Accommodation for Infected Health Workers in Parbat
3. See: Lab Technicians Manhandled in Dhangadi
4. See: Locals Protest Against Doctor's Stay at a Nearby Hotel
5. See: Karnali Provincial Hospital Doctors Protest Demanding Encouragement Allowance
6. See: COVID-19: Nepal in Crisis
7. See: Ibid
8. See: Nepali Congress Cadres Protest Against Government in Dhanghadi
9. See: Youths Stage Silent Protest Against Govt's Flat Response to Coronavirus Crisis at UNESCO Site in Lalitpur
10. See: Demonstration Against Government in Kanchanpur
11. See: Students Stage Protest in Saptari
12. See: Youths Continue Protest in Kathmandu Against Government Handling of COVID-19
13. See: People in Quarantine Agitated After Delay of PCR Report for Months in Dang
14. See: Youths Protest Demanding Blacktopping of Inner Roads of Kathmandu Among Others
15. See: NSU Stage Demonstration Demanding Isolation Ward in Every Local Level in Dadeldhura
16. See: Drivers Protest Demanding Resumption of Taxi Service in Kathmandu Valley
17. See: Hunger Strike Against Government Inefficiency
18. See: Man Arrested for Black Marketing Fertilizers
19. See: Pokhara Locals Attack Police Post Over Decision to Bury COVID-19 Patient in their Ward
20. See: COVID-19 and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
21. See: Ibid
22. See: Calls to National Helpline for Women Are Growing, But it is Accessible to Only a Few

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.

