



COCAP BIWEEKLY: INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19

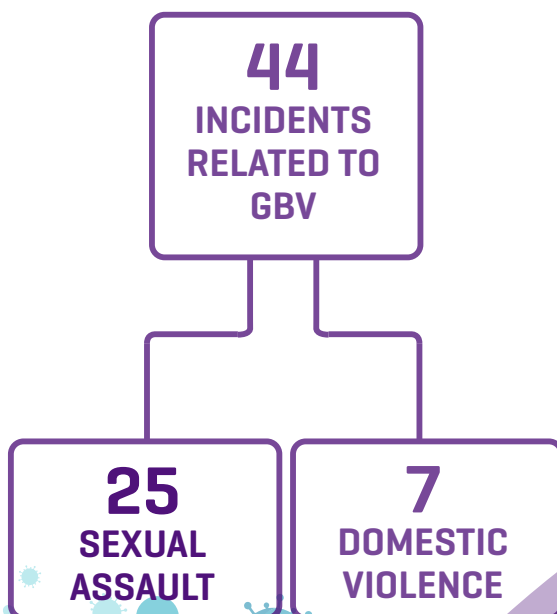
NOV 16 - NOV 30, 2020



COCAP'S BIWEEKLY: INCIDENTS RELATED TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND COVID-19 FROM NOV 16 - NOV 30 , 2020.

From November 16 - November 30 , 2020 COCAP's Nepal Peace Monitoring Project [PMP] recorded three incidents related to COVID-19. Majority of incidents were related to issues related to public health services, labour disputes and law and order violence.

From November 16 - November 30 , 2020, 44 cases of violence against women were recorded in which 25 victims of sexual assault were below the age of 26. Similarly, seven cases of domestic violence were recorded along with one dowry related dispute and one case of human trafficking.



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. It also aims to make the readers aware about the issues surrounding the violence against women and girls in the Nepali societies.



COVID-19 RELATED INCIDENTS

COVID-19 has severely affected the livelihood of people in Nepal. Until November 30, 2020 the total number of positive cases reached 233,452 with 1508 deaths. With no more lockdowns or prohibitory order the streets in the valley are seen to be crowded. Even though Nepal has been witnessing a steady decline in the number of new cases of COVID-19 experts have warned that people should be cautious and not lower their guard.¹

In Humla district, no contact tracing was conducted even after a week when 56 people had tested positive for COVID-19.² The residents of Humla seem to have lost faith in the government's effort to improve their living conditions and according to the health workers at Namkha Rural Municipality even though people have come in close contact with the infected person they refused to go through tests.

At the same time, regarding the vaccine the Ministry of Health and Population, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have sent diplomatic notes to India, China, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States seeking their support to make the vaccines available after their products are ready to use.³ Some COVID-19 related incidents which took place from November 16 - 30, 2020 are explained below:

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The government of Nepal sought clarification from four health centers including Star Hospital, central Diagnostic Laboratory, Sooriya Health Care and HAMS hospital for not following the rule set by the government regarding the decision to keep record of COVID-19 reports.⁴ The health centers and laboratories were investigated after the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation sent a letter to the health ministry because people who tested negative for COVID-19 in Nepal tested positive in Hongkong, Dubai and Japan.

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The local civic leaders staged an hour long sit-in in front of the Birgunj Customs Office at the former Inarwa Border demanding the government to open the Nepal -India border to address the difficulties faced by the people due to its closure.⁵

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The agitated staff of Bir Hospital padlocked the accounting and procurement unit and rooms of the hospital officials for not fulfilling their demand even after 42 days of protest.⁶ They have been demanding COVID-19 allowance for working in the frontline.

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All party District Struggle Committee Sarlahi demanding the government to open the Nepal-India border which was closed for the past eight months to prevent the spread of COVID-19.⁷

CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN NEPAL

Gender based violence has become an on-going issue in Nepal which has affected both men and women but according to our data women and girls are mostly the victim of such violence. In the past 15 days the Peace Monitoring Project [PMP] recorded 44 cases of gender based violence. Sexual assault was the most common form of violence against women with 39 cases which include 32 cases of rape in which 25 victims were women and girls below the age of 26. The youngest victims of heinous crime was a 2 year old from Makwanpur district⁸ and a 5 year old from Salyan district.⁹

Domestic violence is the second most common form of violence against women with 5 cases which resulted in the death of three women. Siraha district had the highest number of incidents of domestic violence with three cases followed by Jhapa and Dadeldhura with one case each.

Siraha district had the highest number of cases of gender based violence with 5 incidents followed by Parsa, Kaski, Kathmandu and Sarlahi district with three cases each (See fig 2). Similarly, province 2 and 3 had the highest number of cases of GBV with 14 and 11 cases respectively (See fig 1).

FIG -1 REPORTED INCIDENTS OF GBV BY PROVINCE

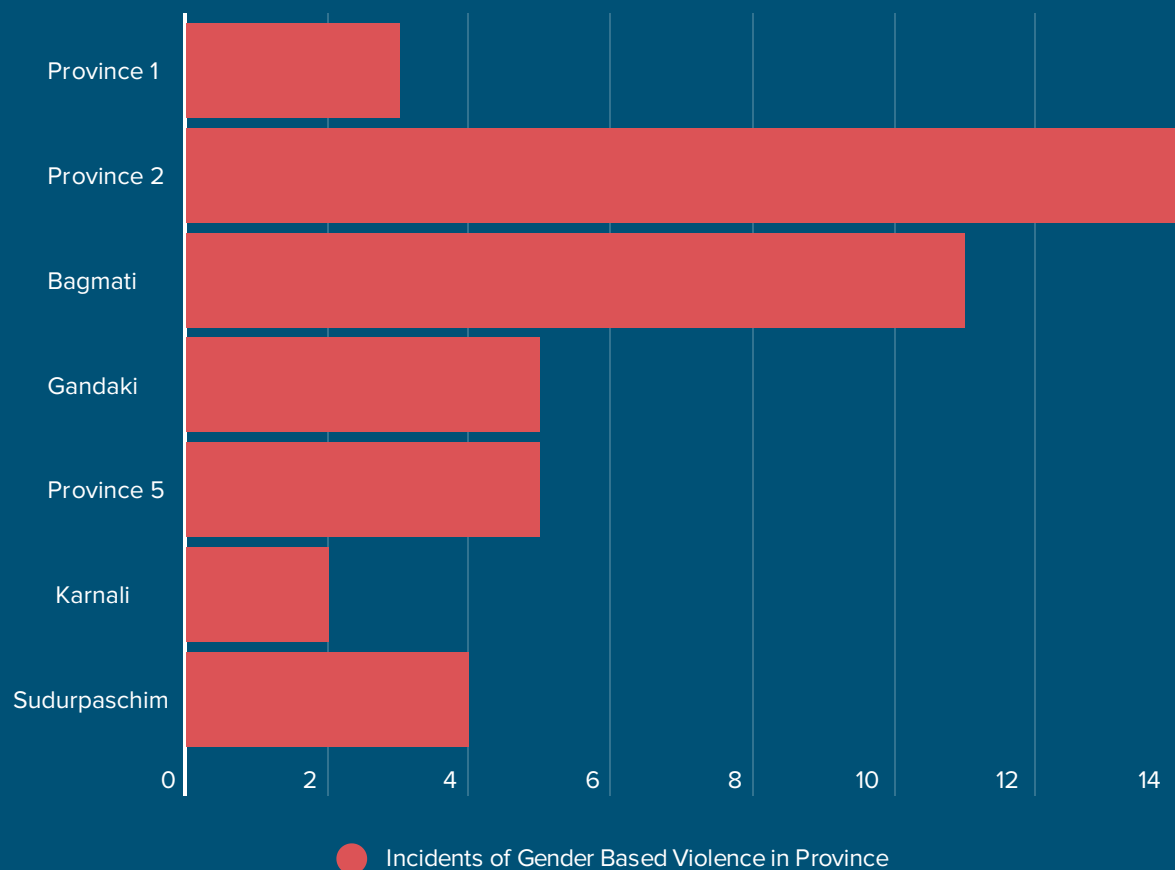
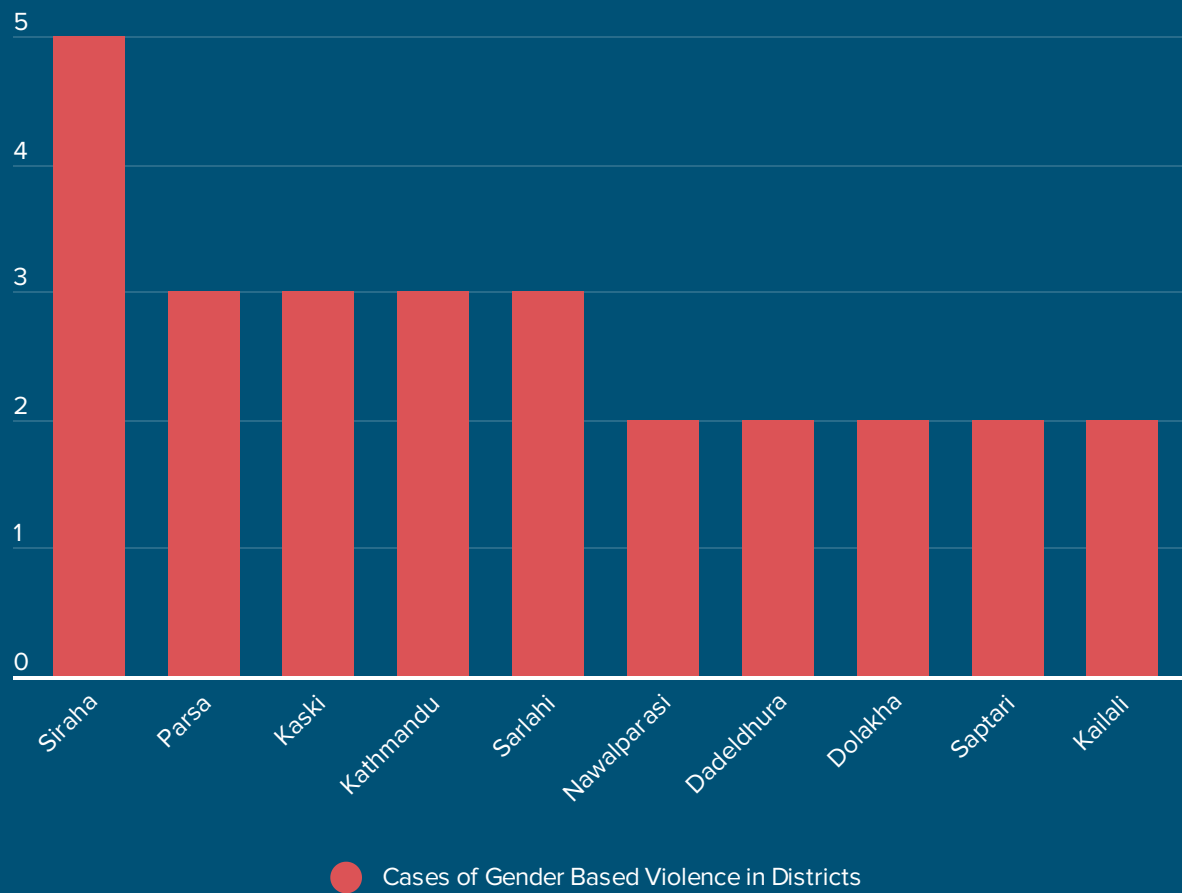
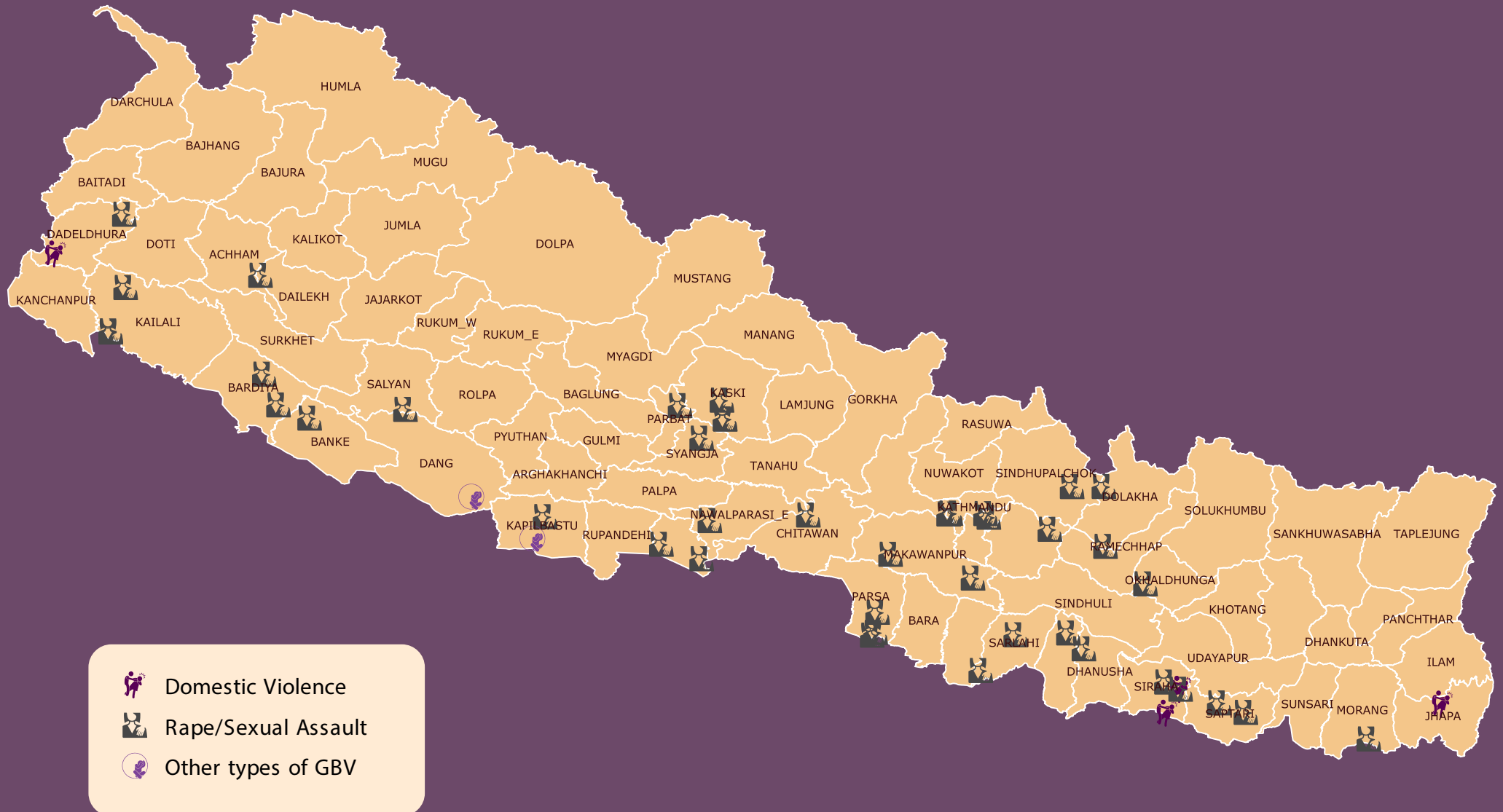


FIG -2 REPORTED INCIDENTS OF GBV BY DISTRICT

REPORTED INCIDENTS OF GBV (GENDER BASED VIOLENCE)
DECEMBER 16-30,2020



ENDNOTES

1. See: Health Experts Warn Against Lowering Guard
2. See: Long neglected, People of Humla See No Point in Cooperating to Check Virus Spread
3. See: Nepal Joins The Race To Get The Vaccine But When And How is Still Up In The Air
4. See: Govt Seeks Clarification From Four Health Facilities
5. See: Local Civil Society Leaders Stage Sit-in At Birgunj Demanding Opening of Nepal India Border
6. See: Agitating Staff Padlocks Bir Hospital Official's Office Demanding COVID-19 Allowance
7. See: Sit-In Staged in Sarlahi Demanding Opening of Nepal-India Border
8. See: Youth Arrested on Charge of Raping 2 Year Old Minor Girl in Makwanpur
9. See: 5 Year Old Girl Raped By 13 Year Old Boy In Salyan

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.

