

EPIDEMIC CONTROL FOR VOLUNTEERS: A TRAINING CONDUCTED IN GULMI DISTRICT, NEPAL FOR PREPAREDNESS OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AGAINST EPIDEMICS

Authors

Deepak Pokhrel and Rujina Joshi

Introduction

Gulmi district of Lumbini Province, Nepal is one of the districts of the country which has reported growing incidence of reported cases of scrub typhus, dengue, and diarrheal diseases in the past years. In three-year period (2018-2020), Nepal Red Cross Society implemented Emergency Health Program, in which Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) training was provided to community-based volunteers with a primary goal of developing capability of community to prevent and respond to epidemics and outbreaks.

Training method

The training was conducted utilizing the ECV training resource of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The training module consists of simple community message tool, action tool, and diseases tool, including the concept of one health approach.

Outcome

| SN | Activities | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Total Trained | | Total |
|----|--------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| | | | | | HR | | |
| | | | | | Men | Women | |
| 1 | ECV Training of Trainers | 25 | | | 19 | 6 | 25 |
| 2 | ECV roll-out training | 100 | 52 | 142 | 73 | 223 | 296 |
| | Total | 125 | 52 | 142 | 92 | 229 | 321 |

| SN | Activities |
|----|--|
| 1 | ECV volunteer mobilization for diarrhoea prevention |
| 2 | ECV volunteer mobilization for COVID-19 prevention |
| 3 | Volunteer mobilization for COVID-19 vaccination campaign |
| 4 | ECV volunteer mobilization for Dengue prevention |

Conclusion

The ECV training is proven to be a useful training tool for community-based volunteers to enhance their capacity in preventing and responding to disease outbreaks at primary level. It is applicable for people at community level who can implement and disseminate the learnt information at grass-root level.



Fig 1: ECV trained Female Community Health Volunteers