For the last seven months, Kathmandu Living Labs, with help from the tourism industry, has been working to document the effects of the COVID-19 crisis, as felt by tourism industry in Nepal.

The industry is Nepal’s third largest employer, and contributes to 6.9% of the country’s GDP.

The industry is also one of the first to suffer from the pandemic: international flights to Nepal were closed in YYYYYY. For a country like Nepal

We met with people who were working in tourism, people who owned a tourism business, or people working for the sector’s recovery in some capacity (government officials, etc.). We tried to gather information around this lived experience, through interviews, and through surveys. In doing this, we wanted to focus on economic and psychosocial impacts that the pandemic has had on people. We also wanted to understand and capture the needs and concerns of these people, hoping this information would be useful for future decisions made for the industry.

Through this report, we wanted to share what we found. However, in doing this, we took a slightly different approach. We tried building a few stories, guided by the data we received through our workforce and business surveys, which were filled by 206 individuals working in the tourism sector, and 106 individuals working with a tourism business respectively.

We are convinced that the information gathered can provide some direction to lobbyists, decision-makers, and well-wishers of the tourism industry, when taking next steps to support the recovery of a very important sector in Nepal.

We

ur involvement, which has lasted seven months, has resulted in two surveys.

We took a couple of directions in our approach.

Over the last 7 months, we’ve also been documenting their lived experiences. We did this through surveys, one on one interviews, and other forms of formal or informal discussions.

A lot of people have helped us in our effort. We are very grateful to Mr. Dipak Raj Joshi, for introducing and connecting us to some key individuals, and formal or informal groups in Nepal’s tourism industry.

None of this would have been possible without support from American Association of Geographers (AAG).

By now, all of us have felt the impact of COVID in our lives.

We have tried to learn from people on the ground,