

Situation Update #122 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 08 - 14 August 2022 (EPI Week 32)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 14 August 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 15 August 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.2% (975,609) of cases have recovered, 0.6% (5,435) are active cases and 1.2% (11,988) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 96.5% (5,246) cases are in home isolation; 3.5% (189) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation of which 34.4% (65) patients require ICU admission and 2 patients require ventilator support.
- Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (2,905) reported this week, 46.9% (1,363) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district 13.2% (384). Majority of the new cases 63.3% (1,840) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.

COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 15 August 2022)

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer		Moderna	
First dose	5,472,030	First dose	10,349,203	Single dose	3,480,736	First dose	2,897,248	First dose	3,220,078
Second dose	4,771,957	Second dose	9,226,102			Second dose	576,110	Second dose	2,821,170

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- Since 9 May 2021, all 7 provinces in the country are experiencing community transmission.
- Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, 78.2% (776,088/993,032) of RT-PCR confirmed cases were reported from three provinces, namely- Province 1, Bagmati Province and Lumbini Province. The Kathmandu valley area (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur) in Bagmati Province has substantially high case load with 44.0% of national total (437,101/993,032), and 81.3% of the provincial total (437,101/537,078).
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 32 ranged from 13.2% (Madhesh province) to 39.2% (Sudurpashchim province), with a national positivity rate at 16.3%. Karnali province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 14 August 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 993,032

Antigen RDT: 146,912

Cumulative deaths: 11,988

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,853,473

Antigen RDT: 1,316,979

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

59,164,201 (10%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

791,746 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

567,312,625 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,378,748 (100%)

- Nepal reported a 18% decrease in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=2905) in Epi week 32 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 84% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Bagmati, and Lumbini province.
- Nepal reported 17 deaths in Epi week 32, 325% more compared to that in the previous week.

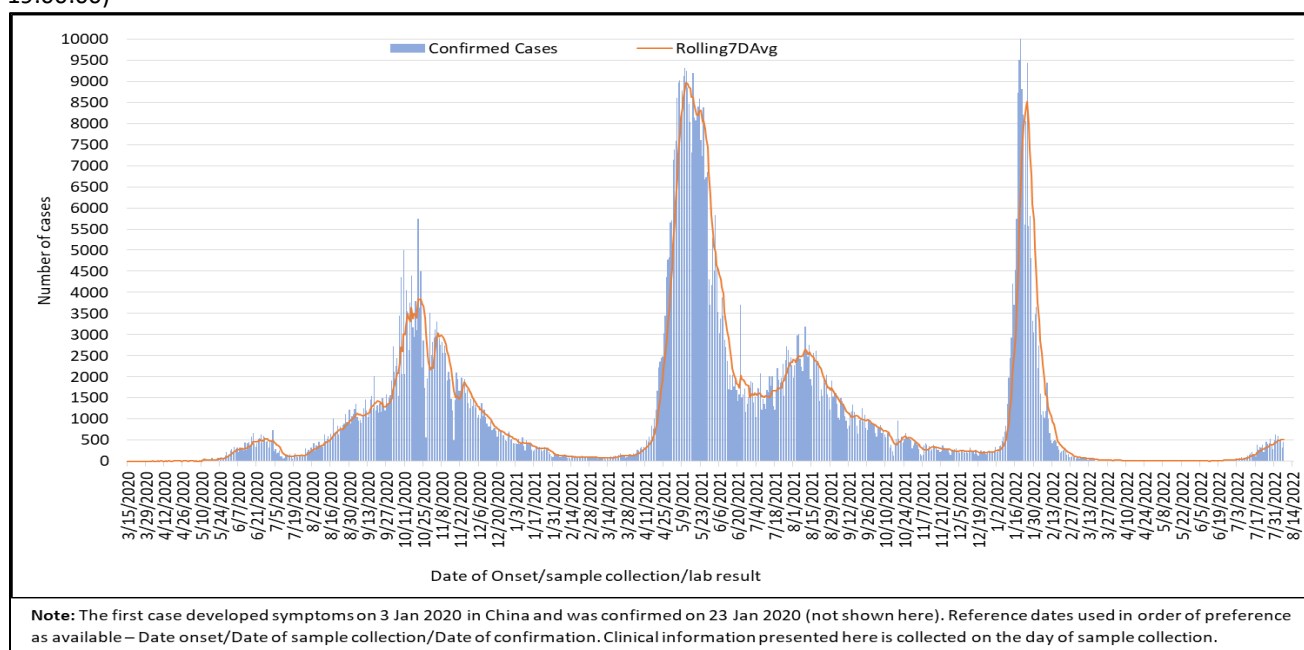
National Influenza Surveillance

- National Influenza Center (NIC)NIC-NPHL reported 8 diagnostic Influenza sample on Epi-week 32 (8-14 August 2022).
 - None of the samples tested positive for both Influenza A and B and SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on Epi-week 32, 56 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza. None of the samples tested positive for Influenza A and B.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHLs) from Province 1, Gandaki, Lumbini and Karnali Provinces reported testing of 75 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using multiplex kit on Epi-week 32.
 - Three samples tested positive for Influenza A and 3 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
 - A total of 656 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 14 August 2022.
- From 3 January 2022 until 14 August 2022:
 - A total of 136 samples tested positive for Influenza [(2 Influenza B, 64 Influenza A/H3 , 67 Influenza A(H1N1pdm09)] and 3 Influenza A (subtyping to be done) from 4,171 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 272 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1,435 Influenza negative samples (sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples).¹

WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000). Link Here- <https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/covid/>

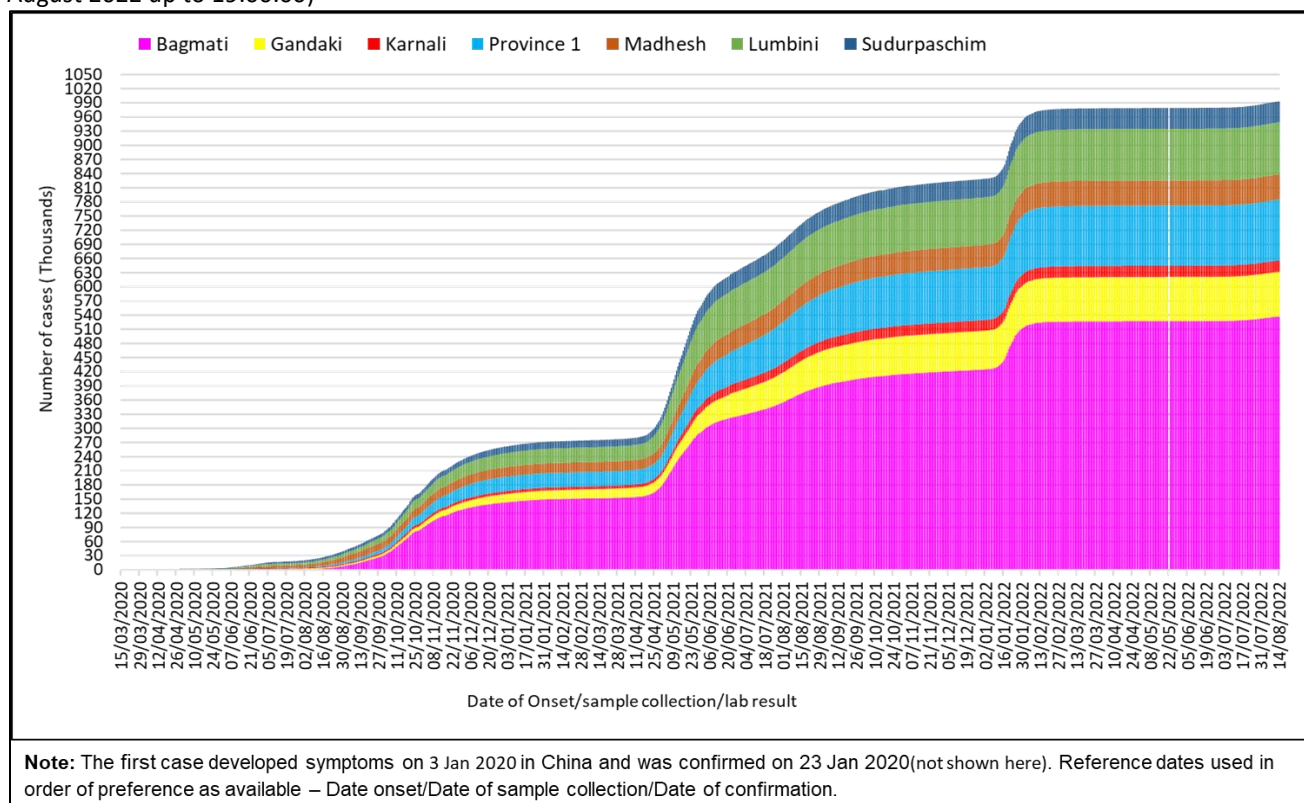
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

Figure 1: RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N= 993,032) (Data reported on 14 August 2022 up to 19:00:00)



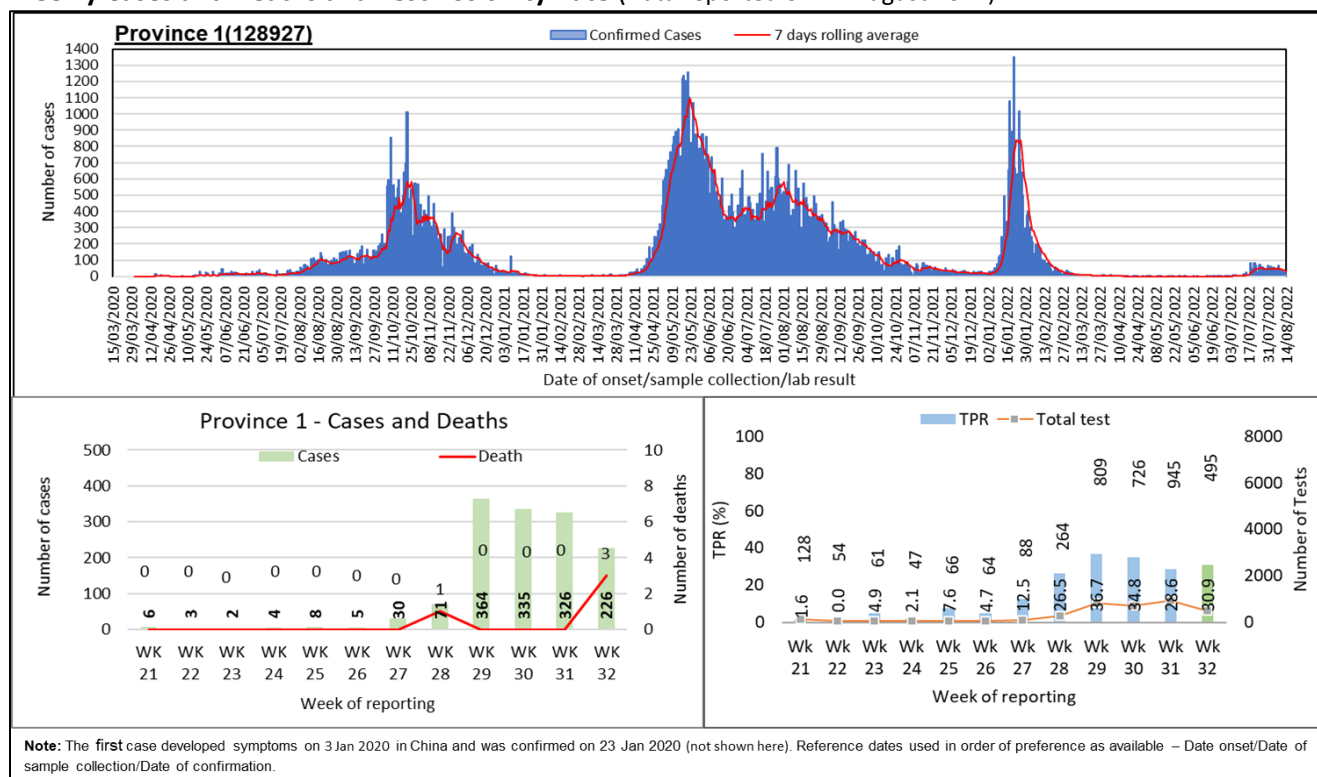
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end of January 2022. Since the middle of May 2022, cases have been steadily rising following an increasing trend.

Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases (N= 993,032) (Data reported on 14 August 2022 up to 19:00:00)



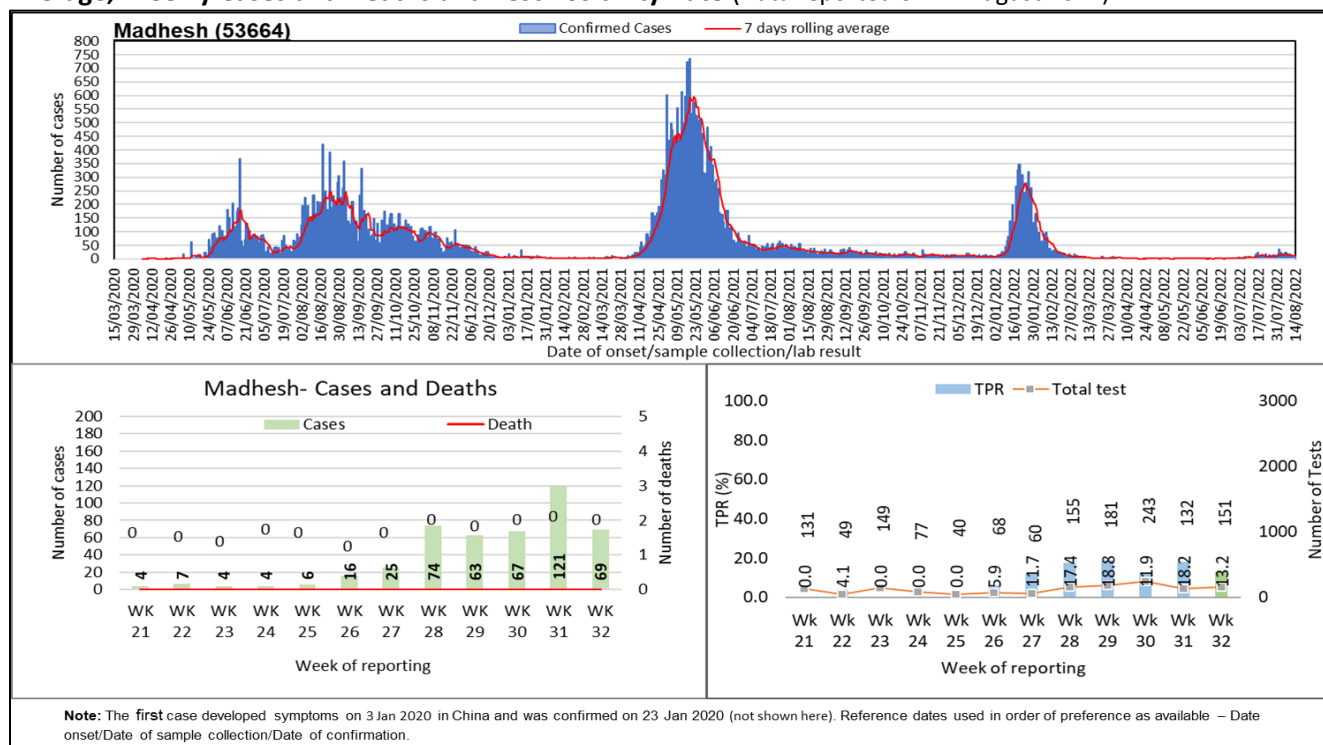
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

Figure 3A1: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Province 1: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 August 2022)



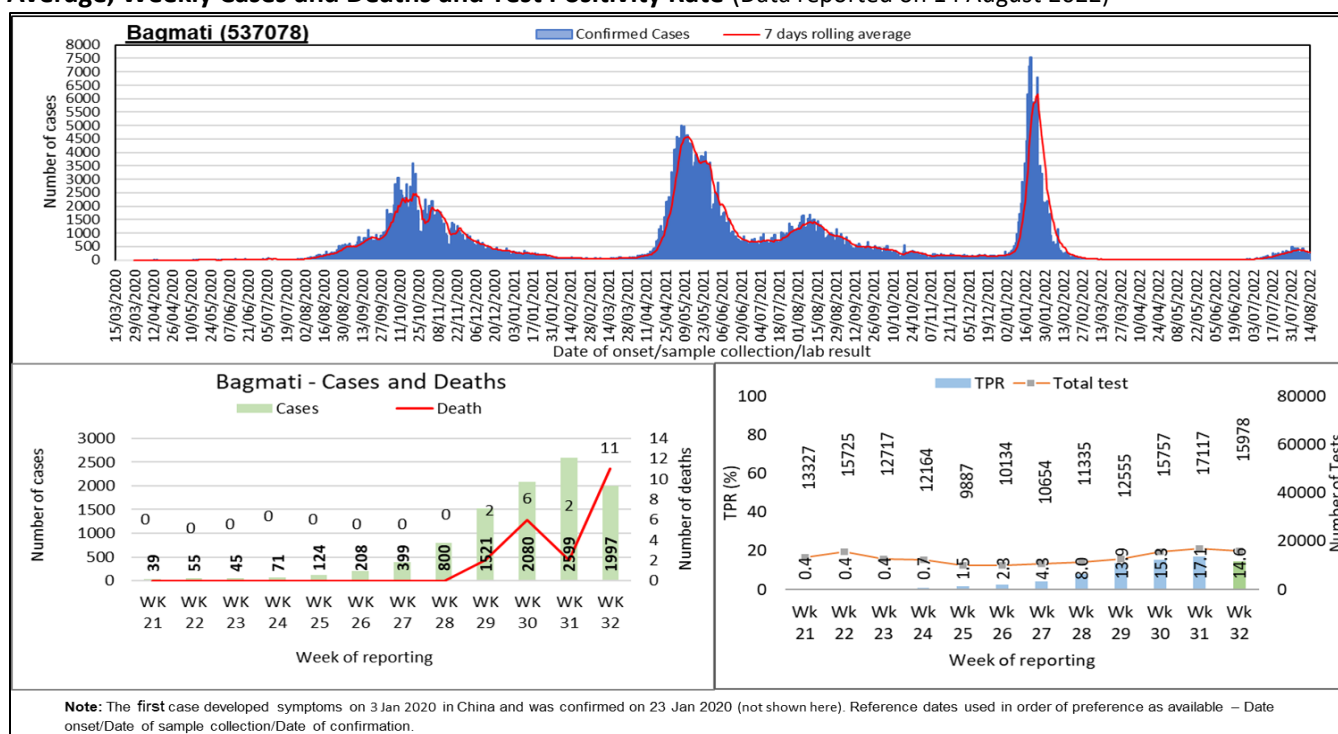
There were 226 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have decreased by 31% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 3 deaths reported in the past week, compared to none in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 increased to 30.9% in the past week. A total of 495 tests were performed in the past week, 48% less than that in the previous week.

Figure 3A2: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Madhesh Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 August 2022)



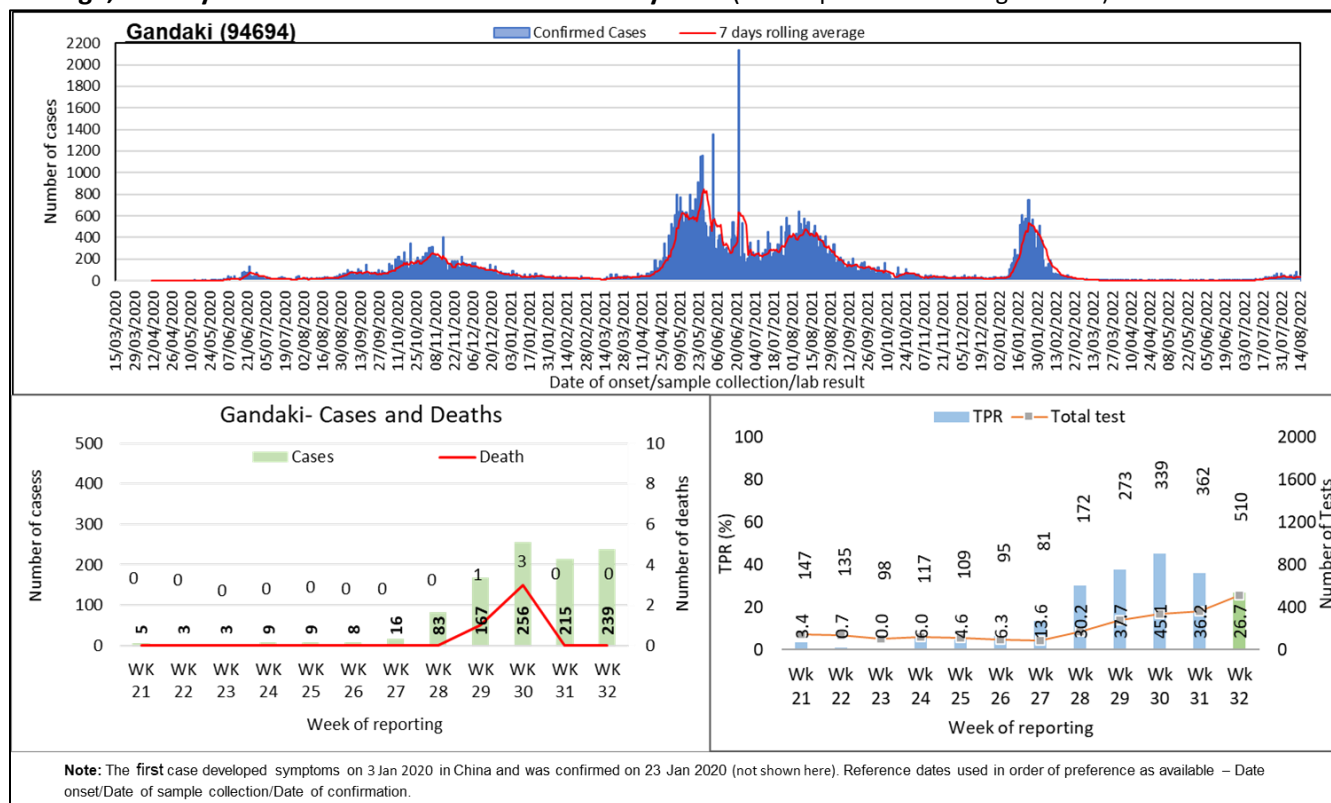
There were 69 new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh province. Cases have decreased by 43% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh decreased to 13.2% in the past week. A total of 151 tests were performed in the past week, 14% more than that in the previous week.

Figure 3A3: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Bagmati Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 August 2022)



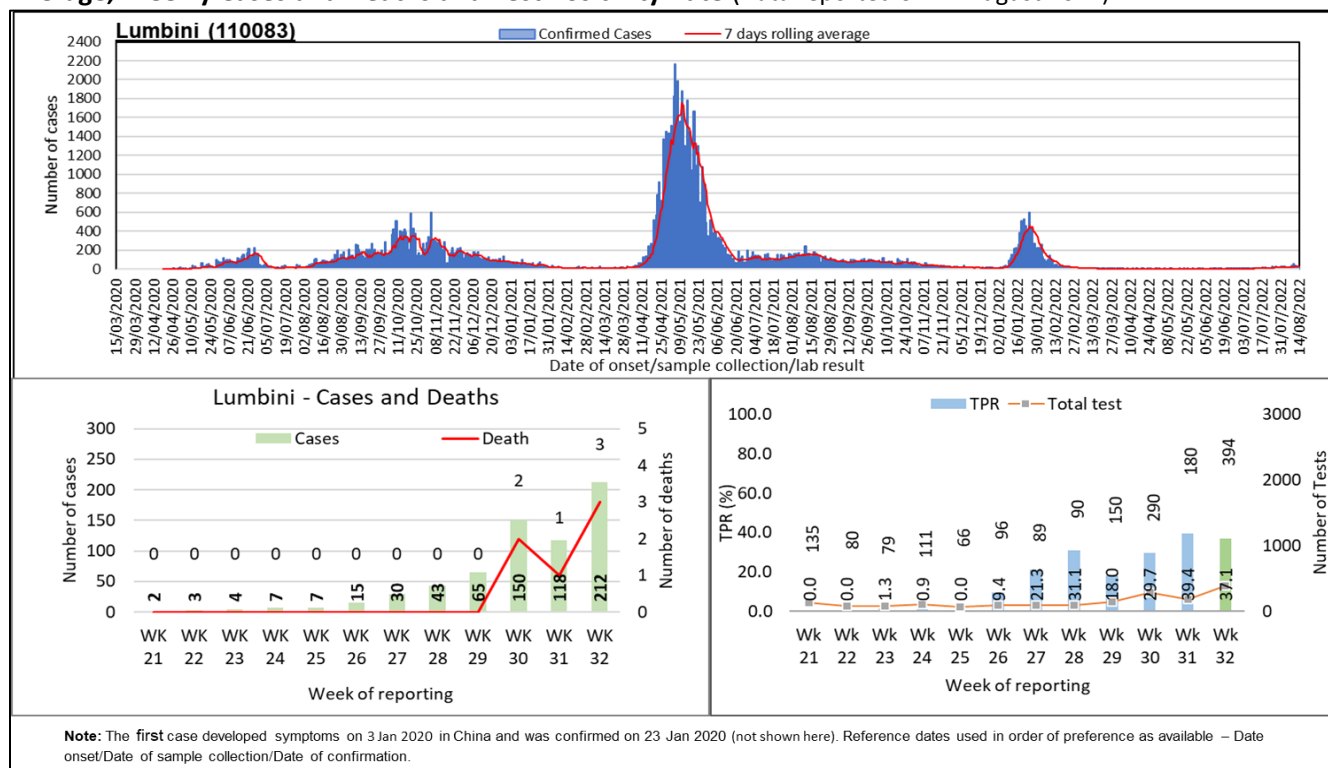
In Bagmati, 1997 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 23% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 11 deaths reported in the past week, 450% more compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 14.6% in the past week. A total of 15,978 tests were performed in the past week, 7% less than that in the previous week.

Figure 3A4: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Gandaki Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 August 2022)



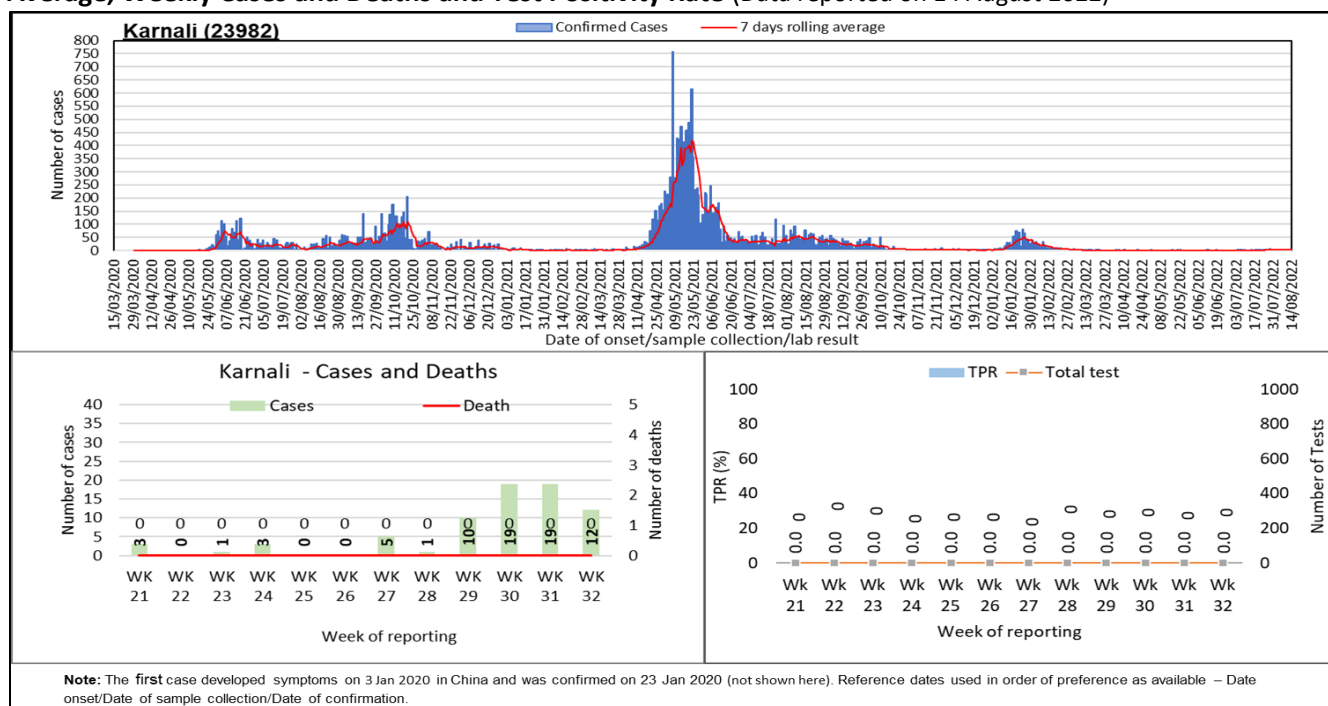
In Gandaki, 239 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 11% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 26.7% in the past week. A total of 510 tests were performed in the past week, 41% more than that in the previous week.

Figure 3A5: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Lumbini Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 August 2022)



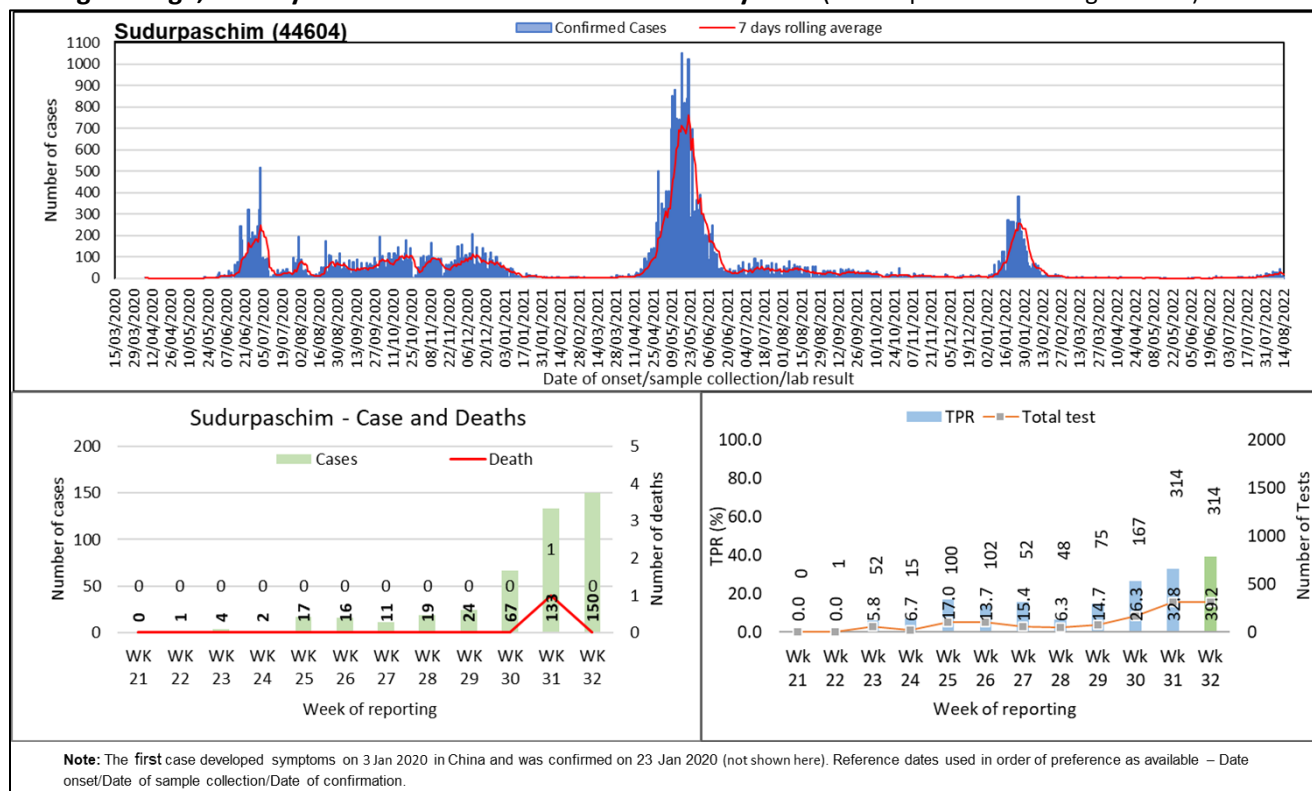
Lumbini reported 212 new cases in the past week. Cases have increased by 80% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 3 deaths reported in the past week, 200% more compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 37.4% in the past week. A total of 394 tests were performed in the past week, 119% more than that in the previous week.

Figure 3A6: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Karnali Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 August 2022)



In Karnali, 12 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 37% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali remained stable at 0.0% in the past week with no test performed reported in the past week.

Figure 3A7: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Sudurpashchim Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 August 2022)



In Sudurpaschim, 150 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 13% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, 100% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpaschim increased to 39.2% in the past week. A total of 314 tests were performed reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 14 August 2022 up to 19:00:00)

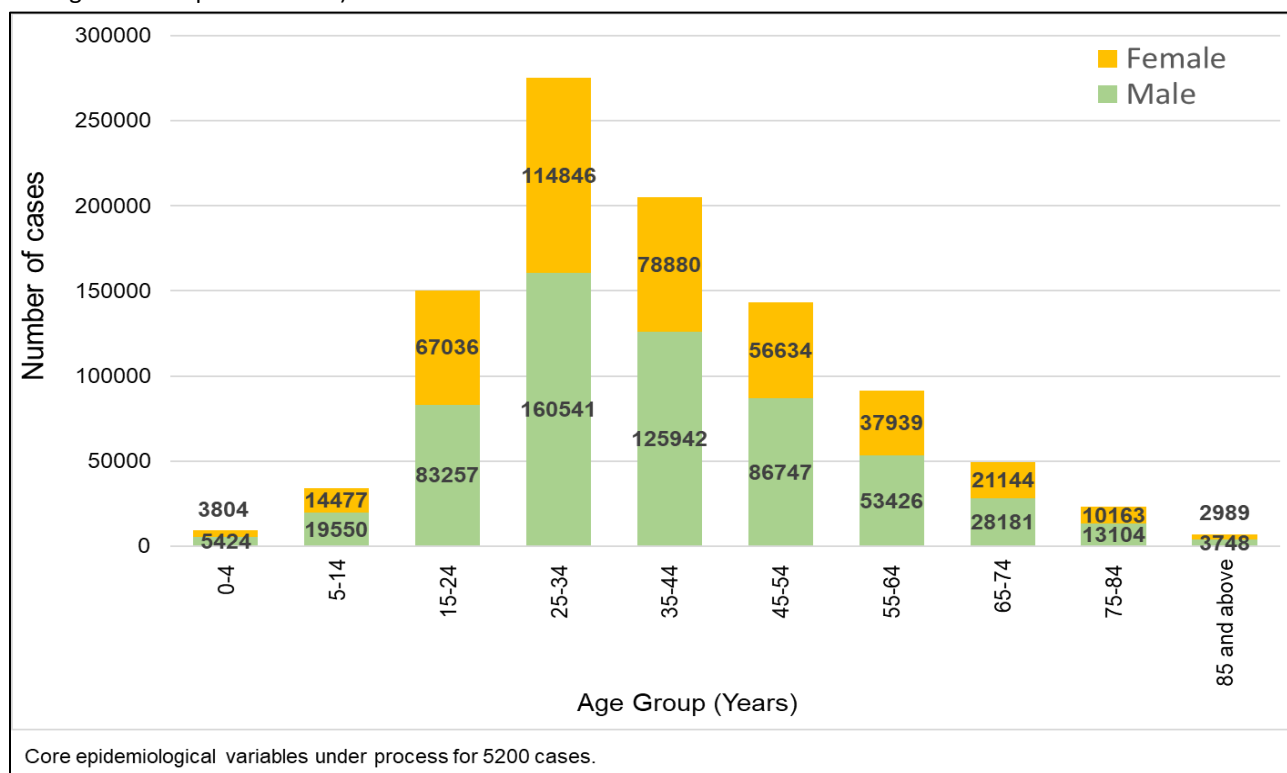
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days RT-PCR test	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days	% of total confirmed cumulative cases in last 14 days	Total Deaths in last 14 days
Province 1	128927	30046	158973	14.2	1719	Community transmission	448	552	1000	9.4	2
Madhesh	53664	1169	54833	4.9	783	Community transmission	46	190	236	2.2	0
Bagmati	537078	31344	568422	50.8	5185	Community transmission	1001	4596	5597	52.5	13
Gandaki	94694	23785	118479	10.6	1423	Community transmission	759	454	1213	11.4	1
Lumbini	110083	27061	137144	12.3	1870	Community transmission	1248	330	1578	14.8	4
Karnali	23982	6107	30089	2.7	491	Community transmission	206	31	237	2.2	0
Sudurpashchim	44604	5694	50298	4.5	517	Community transmission	510	283	793	7.4	1
National Total	993032	125206*	1118238	100	11988	Community transmission	4218	6436	10654	100	21

**Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 14 August 2022, 146912 but IMU reported 125206*

Notes:

1. The source for case data used in this update is from RT-PCR test positivity reported by laboratories from various locations across Nepal, as shared by HEOC Sitrep; and IMU/IHIMS.
2. Case data is screened and cleaned by our data team for double entry, wrong entry and manual errors such as cities name in place of districts, district name in place of province etc.
3. Whereas the test positivity rate is calculated based on the test positivity reported in Sitrep for RT-PCR which may or may not be scrutinized or cleaned the same way and mark the cases on location of the laboratories rather than their place of residence.

Figure 4: Distribution of RT-PCR positive COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N= 987,832)(Data reported on 14 August 2022 up to 19:00:00)



Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males. The incidence of cases is higher in the economically productive age group (15-54 years) for both males and females.

Table 2: Age Specific Case Fatality Ratio and Co-morbidity of Deaths in RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases (N= 993,032) (Data reported on 14 August 2022 up to 19:00:00)

Age Group (Years)	Total confirmed cases	Death (male)	Death (female)	Deaths with any known comorbid condition	Age specific case fatality ratio (%)
0-4	9228	16	23	13	0.42
5-14	34027	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	150293	92	96	70	0.13
25-34	275387	387	264	150	0.24
35-44	204822	875	451	280	0.65
45-54	143381	1393	644	571	1.42
55-64	91365	1685	800	774	2.72
65-74	49325	1636	892	952	5.13
75-84	23267	1224	654	765	8.07
85+	6737	522	288	276	12.02
Unknown	5200	19	7	11	0.5
National	993032	7862	4126	3872	1.21

$$\text{Case Fatality ratio (CFR, in\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from disease}}{\text{Number of confirmed cases of disease}} \times 100$$
 COVID-19 positive lab result is temporally associated with death; causal association under investigation.

A total of 11,988 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,862 (65.6%) were male and 4,126 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,872 persons (32.3%) had at least one known comorbidity. The age specific case fatality ratio (CFR) progressively increases with age, ranging from 0.06% to 12.0%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

What are the Government of Nepal (GoN) & the Ministry of Health & Population (MoHP) doing?

- Nepal reached the landmark of administering more than 50 million COVID-19 vaccine doses on 13 August 2022.

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

Laboratory Diagnosis

- WHO Nepal has been providing technical support to the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in following activities:
 - Monitoring the quality standard of designated COVID-19 laboratories in the country through the National Quality Assurance Program (NQAP). A total of 6 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of all participating laboratories showed 100% concordant.
 - Genome sequencing of 47 SARS-CoV-2 positive samples.
 - PCR testing of 2 samples suspected for Monkeypox sent from Lamjung.

Epidemiology and Health Information

- Epi and HI pillar supported MoHP in conducting two-day workshop to adapt training materials prepared for RRT training by WHO-HQ under Rapid Response Team-Training Implementation Package (RRT-TIP).

Technical Expertise and Training

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training²
- WHO Nepal provided technical and financial support in conducting the following programs below:
 - A six-day training on Primary Emergency Care (3rd & final batch) held from 5 -10 August 2022 organized by National Health Training Center (NHTC) at Dhulikhel Hospital in Kavrepalanchowk, Bagmati Province. Seven trainers trained 17 participants working in emergency units of health facilities across the country. Participants were trained in providing Basic Life Support, concept of common Medical Emergencies, Primary Trauma Care, preparing for mass casualties and managing Common Orthopedic Emergencies.

² The routine works of the technical expertise and training team included technical support to the Ministry of Health and Population and its department for developing different guidelines/manuals, conducting health programs and conducting capacity building activities. In order to perform these activities, the team coordinates and discuss with relevant government authorities and partners for effective planning and conducting the various activities.



Participants receiving certificates following completion of the program 'Training of Trainer's on Primary Emergency Care Training'. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/S.Thapaliya

- A 3-day Ambulance Driver Training (3rd Batch) held from 10-12 August 2022 organized by National Training Center, MoHP, with the support of WHO and EU ECHO Fund. The training consisted of briefings on proper transportation of acutely ill or injured, ambulance disinfection, case management, communication with Dispatch Center – 102, Traffic Rules, 'Ambulance Nepal' App, and National Ambulance Guideline 2021. The 16 participants were from COVID-19 dedicated hospital located in Kathmandu valley.
- WHO Nepal also attended a virtual interaction meeting on dengue organized by EDCCD (Epidemiology and Disease Control Division) and chaired by Director-General, Department of Health Services. . The meeting discussed dengue diagnosis, management, surveillance, case reporting, preventive measures and orientation to health care workers. Respective officials from provinces, districts and local levels were also present at the meeting.

Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics³.
- WHO Nepal provided logistics and operational support for following program:
 - Handover of Portable Skills Lab Equipment at National Health Training Center on 8 August 2022.

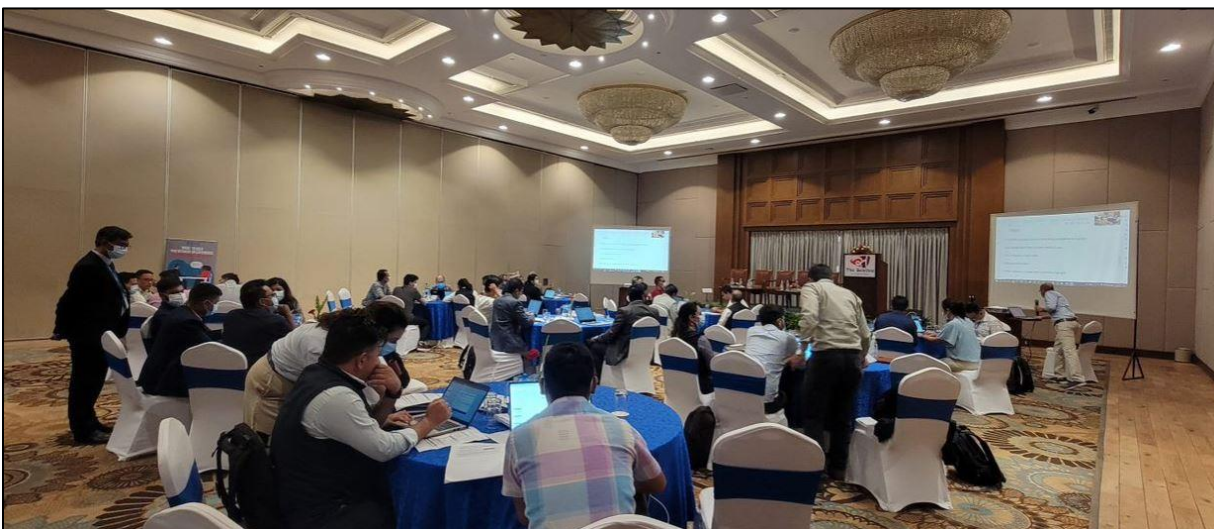


Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, WHO Representative to Nepal and Dr. Allison Gocotano, Team Leader (WHO Health Emergencies), at National Health Training Center during the Handover ceremony of Skill Lab Equipment to the government counterpart on 08 August 2022.

Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/S.G.Amatya

³ The routine works of the operation support and logistics team included technical support to the Management Division of the Department of Health Services for the forecasting, quantification, procurement, and distribution plan of COVID-19 commodities. The other routine activities included daily operational support to the WHO country office and seven provincial health emergency operation centers, including fleet and travel management and the procurement of required logistics and supplies.

- Two-day workshop on Adaptation of the Training Materials for Rapid response in Kathmandu on 8 – 9 August 2022.



Group discussion during the Rapid Response Team Training on 08 August 2022. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/C.Sherpa

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Relevant infographics highlighting the safety and importance of COVID-19 vaccines were shared after national data showed most COVID-19 deaths were occurring in those individuals who were not vaccinated; and those patients who were not vaccinated were 10 times more likely to be acutely ill than those who were vaccinated.
- The news of the commencement of the second phase of national COVID-19 vaccination campaign for children (above 5 years and below 12 years) from 21 August, in the remaining 50 districts, was shared with relevant infographics.
- The news of the handover of skills lab equipment to the National Health Training Center (NHTC), MoHP, by WHO was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)). Due to its portable nature, the equipment which was procured with support from the EU Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid, will enable NHTC to conduct hands-on trainings in rural areas.
- The news of the handover of telecommunication equipment to EDCC National COVID-19 Call Center was shared via the website of WHO, Country Office for Nepal (link [here](#)). WHO handed over IT and communication equipment to the national COVID-19 call center managed by the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCC), MoHP. These equipment are expected to increase the efficiency of the call center operators in receiving and responding to public queries via the national hotline (1115) and strengthen surveillance.
- On the occasion of *World Breastfeeding Week*, relevant IEC materials were shared which highlighted safe breastfeeding during COVID-19.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - The importance of COVID-19 vaccines,
 - Safety of COVID-19 vaccines,
 - Long COVID,
 - The importance of following COVID-19 preventive measures.

- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
 - *Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard*,
 - *Focused COVID-19 and Health Media Monitoring*, and
 - The latest *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*.
- WHO and MoHP press briefings on COVID-19 are being shared via Facebook and Twitter.
- WHO Nepal is regularly supporting Ministry of Health and Population, specifically the Spokesperson for the weekly National briefing. The briefing held on 10 August 2022 focused on informing the public about the increasing risk of COVID-19 in Nepal, importance of PHSM and vaccine to prevent and control COVID-19. Similarly, as cases of cholera and dengue continue to be reported from different regions, messages on the prevention of water-borne and vector borne diseases were also shared. Similarly, update on the national preparedness for monkeypox prevention and control was also included in the briefing.
- Coordination with thematic expert of WHO Nepal and support to NHEICC for finalizing key messages/IEC materials on dengue and prevention of mosquito bite and control.

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- Continued routine work from the team of Partner Coordination and Donor Relation⁴
- UNICEF and WHO are providing overall support for COVID-19 vaccination campaign in close coordination with health partners and donors.
- All members of the Health Cluster are supporting the COVID-19 vaccination campaign of Nepal.
- Health partners are continuing their technical, operational, and logistics support for COVID-19 responses to health-related offices and institutions throughout the country.

WHO's STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE- [link here](#) RECOMMENDATION AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

- [Protect yourself](#)
- [Questions and answers](#)
- [Travel advice](#)
- [EPI-WIN](#): tailored information for individuals, organizations and communities

USEFUL LINKS

- MoHP COVID-19 official portal is available [here](#).
- Nepal COVID-19 regular updates and resources are available [here](#)
- For COVID-19 updates from the WHO South-East Asia Region Office, please visit [here](#).
- For information about coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic from WHO, please visit [here](#)

⁴ The routine works include coordinating with all the divisions, units, centers of Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and Department of Health Services (DoHS), and the health partners for effective conduction of Health Cluster Coordination meeting. Furthermore, the works included the documentation and distribution of meeting minutes, health partner's support updates in the 3Ws (Who, What, Where) and thematic mapping, updates of WHO's support in the UNRCO 3W sheet, participate in multi-sectoral and emergency and disaster preparedness and response platforms and activities and the humanitarian country team operational meetings. Moreover, necessary support for effective coordination of Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC) with different stakeholders is provided.

- Please visit this [site](#) for all technical guidance from WHO.
- Online courses on COVID-19 from WHO can be found [here](#)
- WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard can be found [here](#)
- Visit the WHO Nepal [Facebook page](#) and webpage on COVID-19 [here](#)

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