

# Situation Update #61- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 8 - 14 June 2021

### HIGHLIGHTS *\*Data as of COVID-19 Update, HEOC, 14 June 2021*

- Of the total COVID-19 positive cases, 87.8% (536,252) of cases have recovered and 10.8% (65,804) of cases are active.
- Of the total active cases, 92.8% (61,122) cases are in home isolation; 7.1% (4,682) cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 995 (1.5%) patients require ICU admission, 324 (0.3%) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Forty three districts have reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (19027) reported this week, 22.3% (4246) of the new cases are from Kathmandu district and 31.0% (5903) from Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts).
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status *(Data as of 14 June 2021)*:

COVISHIELD Vaccine		SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell)	
First dose	: 1,823,663	First dose	: 614,464 (ongoing)
Second dose	: 411,006	Second dose	: 280,488

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

#### NEPAL

*(Data as of 15 June 2021, 07:00:00 hours)*

**610,521 (RT-PCR) &  
21,339 (Antigen RDT kit)  
confirmed cases  
8,465 deaths  
3,224,163 RT-PCR tests**

#### SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

*(Data as of 13 June 2021)*

**33 432 290 confirmed cases  
451 838 deaths**

#### GLOBAL

*(Data as of 13 June 2021)*

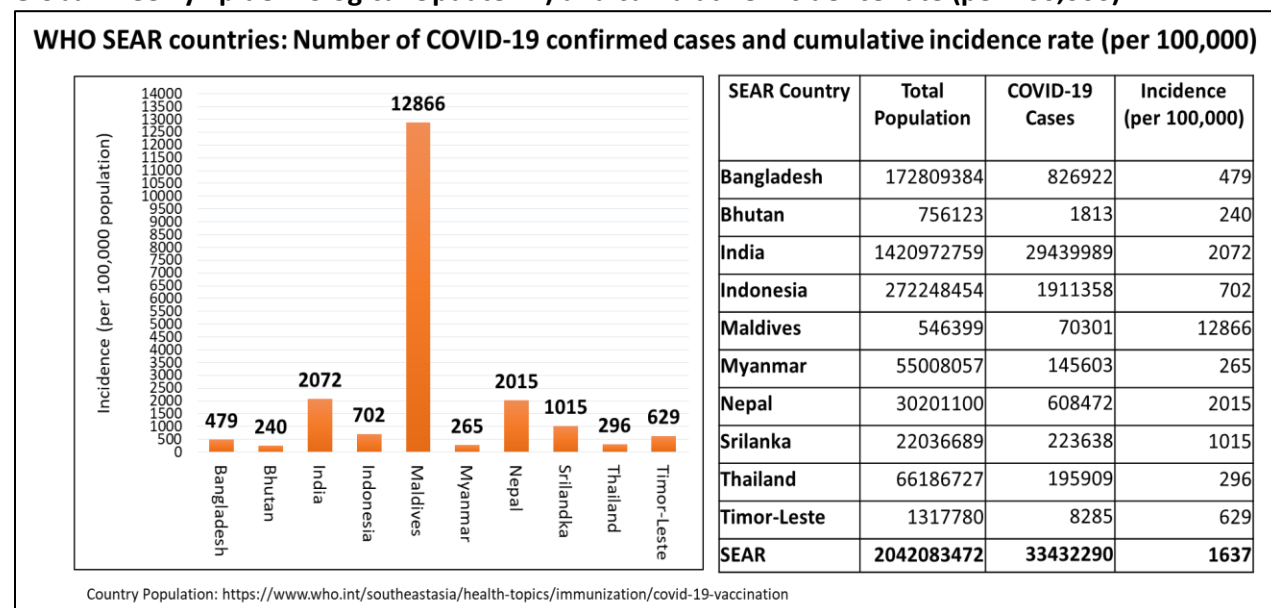
**175,333,154 confirmed cases  
3,793,230 deaths**

### NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

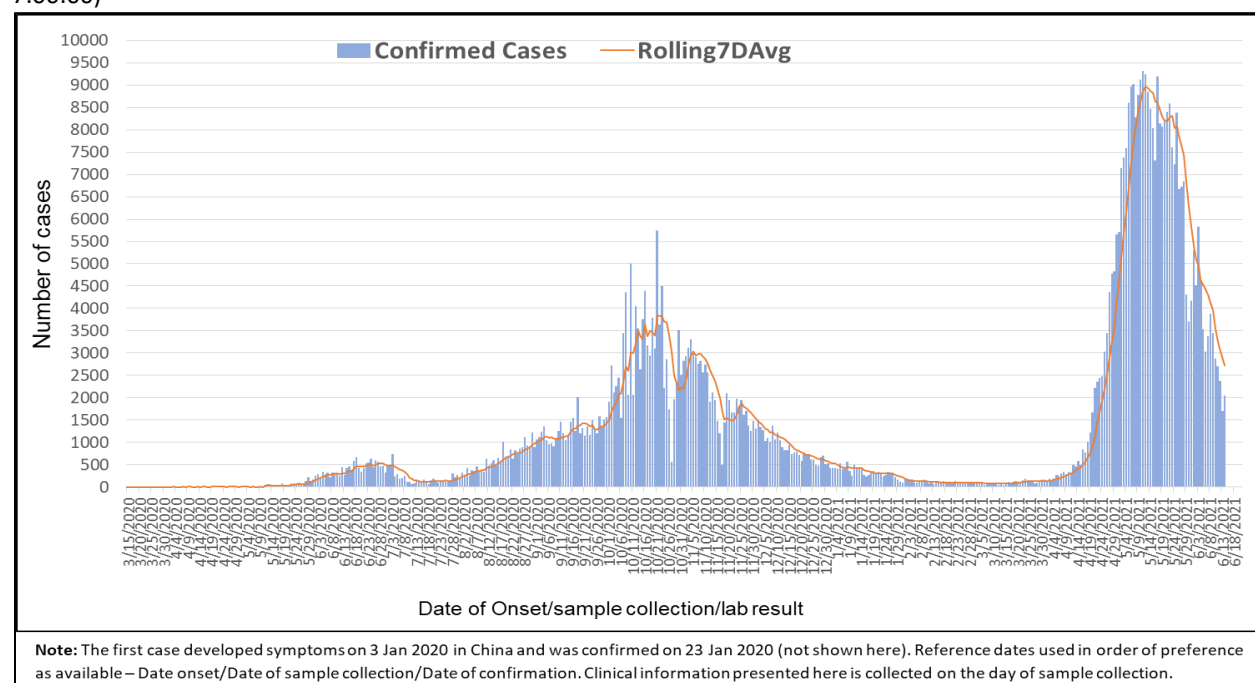
- As of 15 June 2021, T07:00:00 hours (week no. 24), a total of 610,521 COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 3,224,163 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated 95 functional COVID-19 laboratories of which 57 are public laboratories. A total of 21,339 cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 113,210 Antigen RDT have been performed nationwide.
- All 7 provinces in the country are now experiencing community transmission.
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in the past week (week 23) ranged from 21.3% (Province 2) to 49.5% (Karnali Province), with national positivity rate averaging 30.0%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 61% (371,880/610,521) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 79% (293,346/371,880) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).
- From the 5 samples of Influenza Like Illness (ILI)/Severe Acute respiratory Illness (SARI) received during the EPID-week 23 (7 - 13 June 2021) for influenza testing, none of the samples tested positive for influenza or SARS-CoV-2.
- Of the 74 SARS-CoV-2, negative SARI samples tested for influenza in EPID-week 23 (-13 June 2021), none tested positive for influenza.

- From 4 January until 13 June 2021, a total of 51 samples have tested positive for influenza (All were influenza A/H3) from 1671 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI cases). Similarly, 273 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (these positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database) from 1117 samples from sentinel / non-sentinel ILI /SARI sites.

**Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (data as of 13 June 2021; Global Weekly Epidemiological Update 44) and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000)**

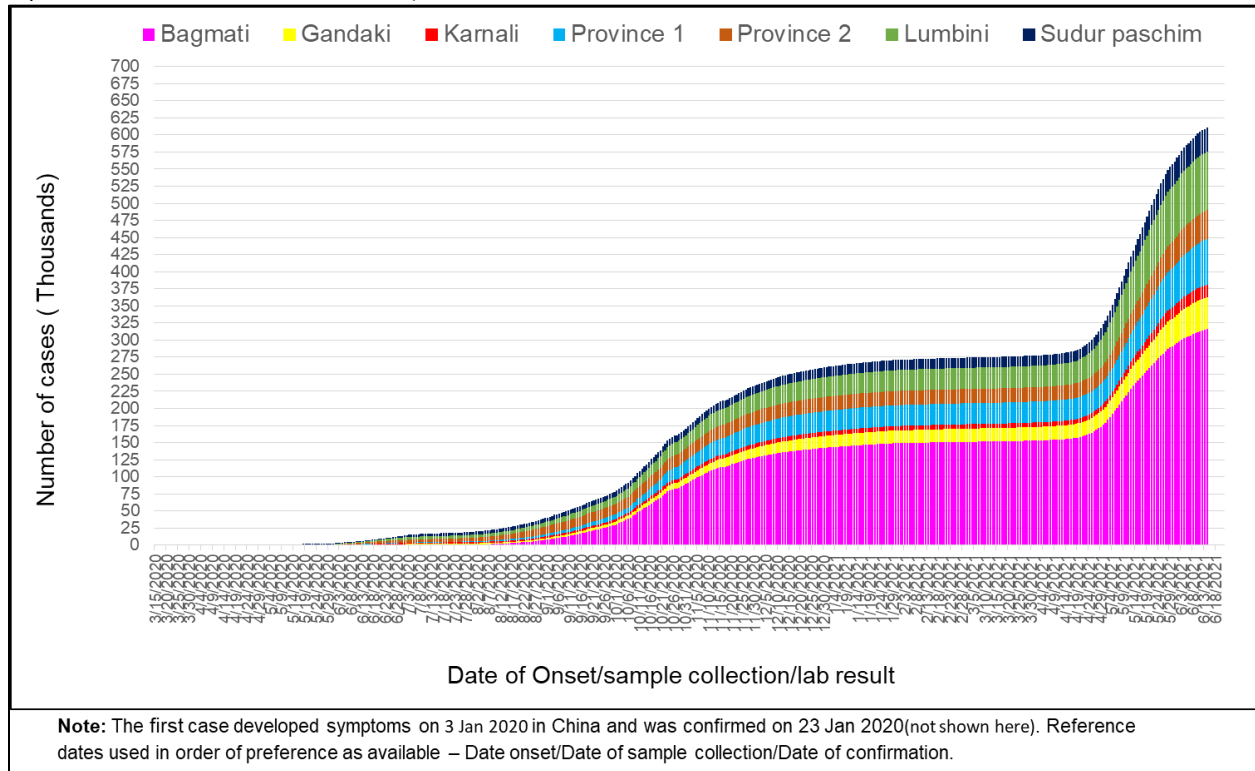


**Figure 2A: Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N = 610521)(Data reported on 15 June 2021 TO 7:00:00)**



At a national level, the second wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the third wave from the middle of March 2021. The total PCR tests done in Nepal on 14 June 2021 was 9438 which is 53% less than the number tested during the peak at the end of October 2020.

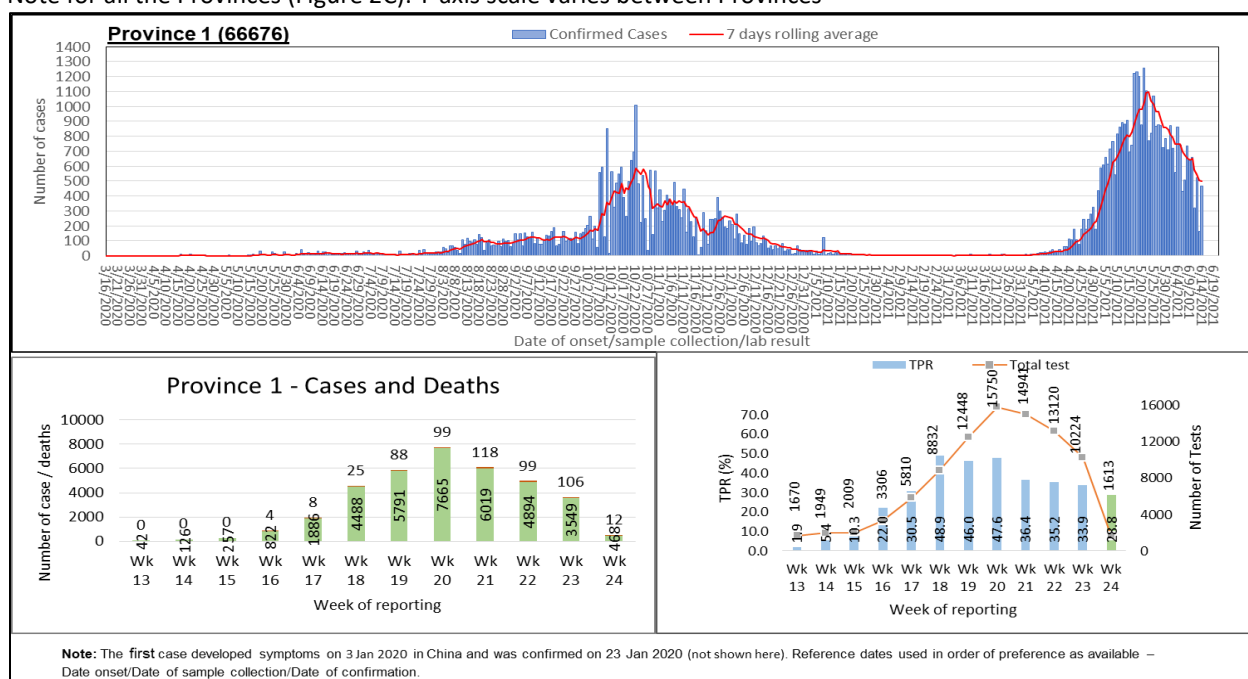
**Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 610521)**(Data reported on 15 June 2021 TO 7:00:00)



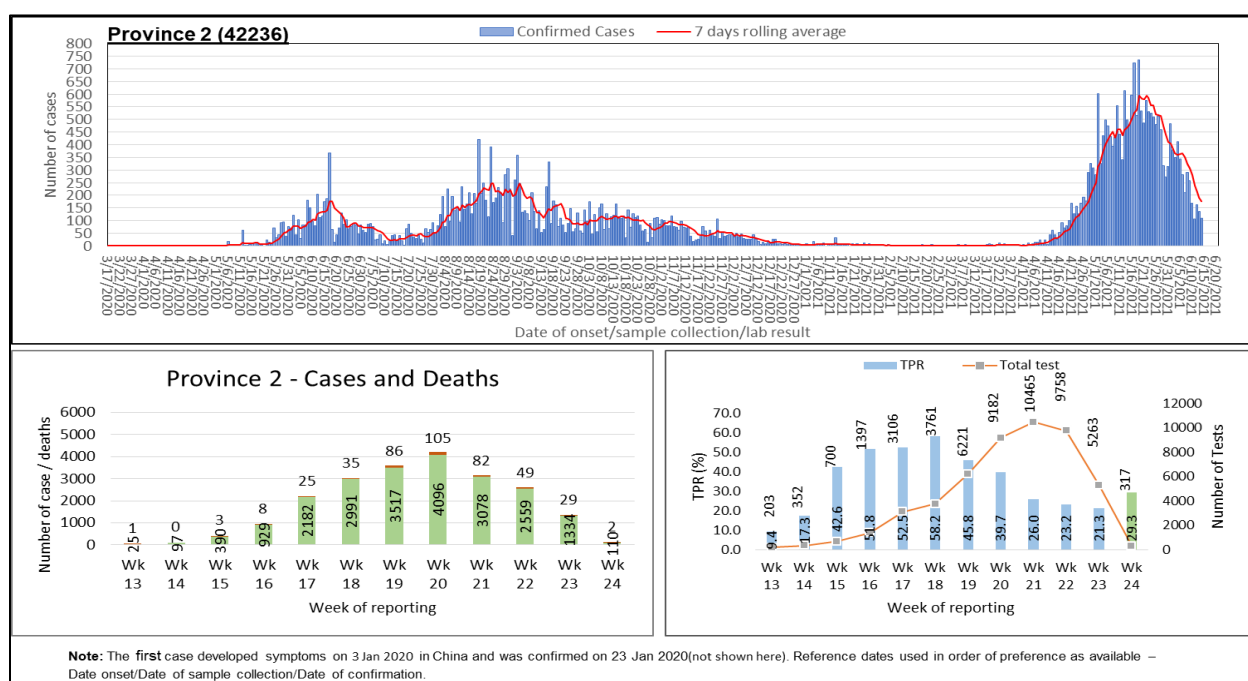
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case which was confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Lumbini Province and Province 1.

**Figure 2C: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate (N = 610521)(Data reported on 15 June 2021 TO 7:00:00)**

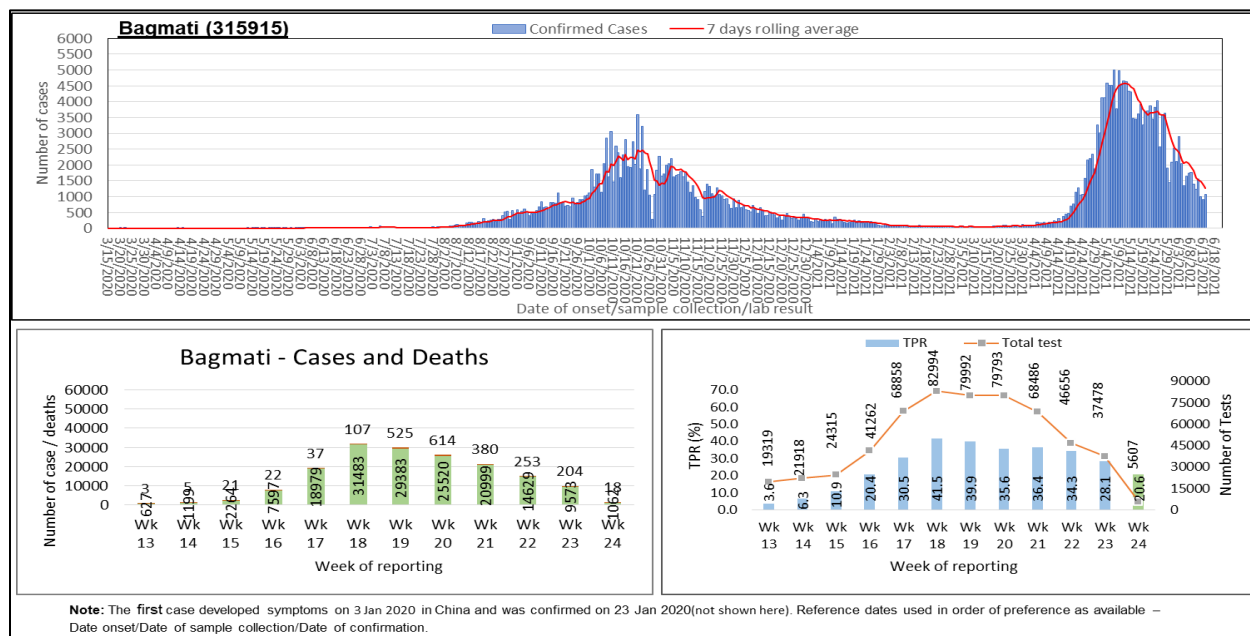
Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2C): Y-axis scale varies between Provinces



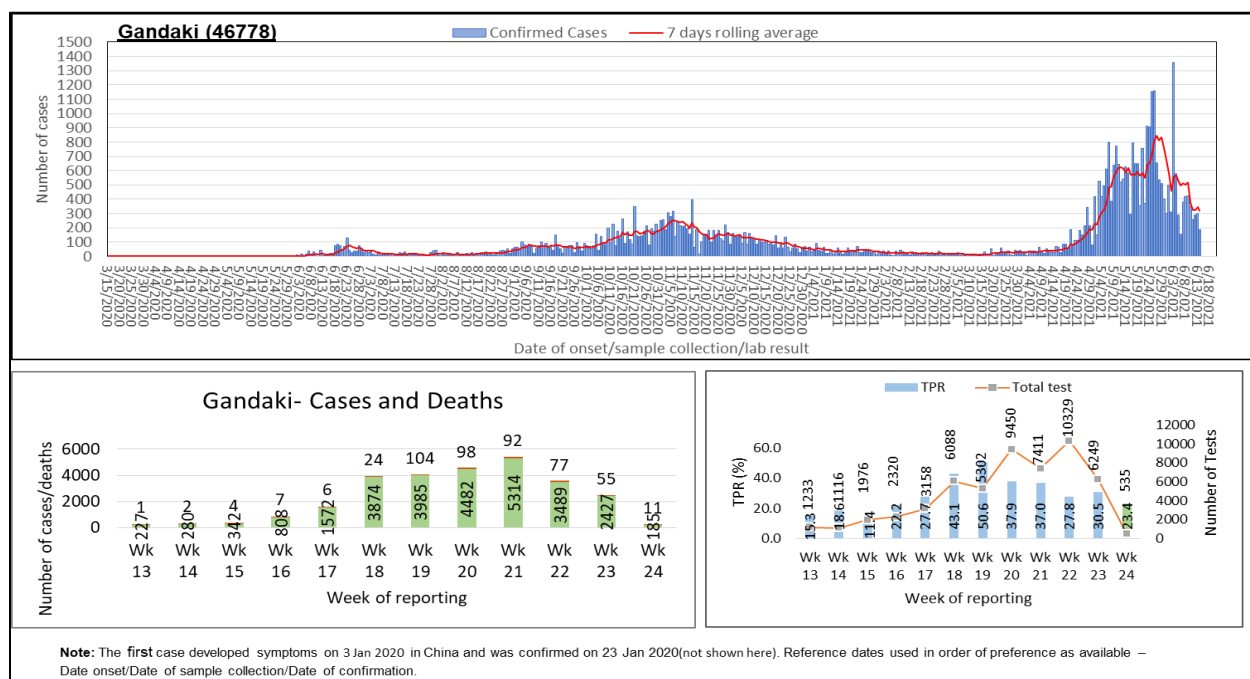
There were 3549 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since week 10, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 27% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 106 deaths reported in the past week, 7% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 33.9% in the past week. A total of 10224 tests were performed in the past week, 22% less than that of the previous week.



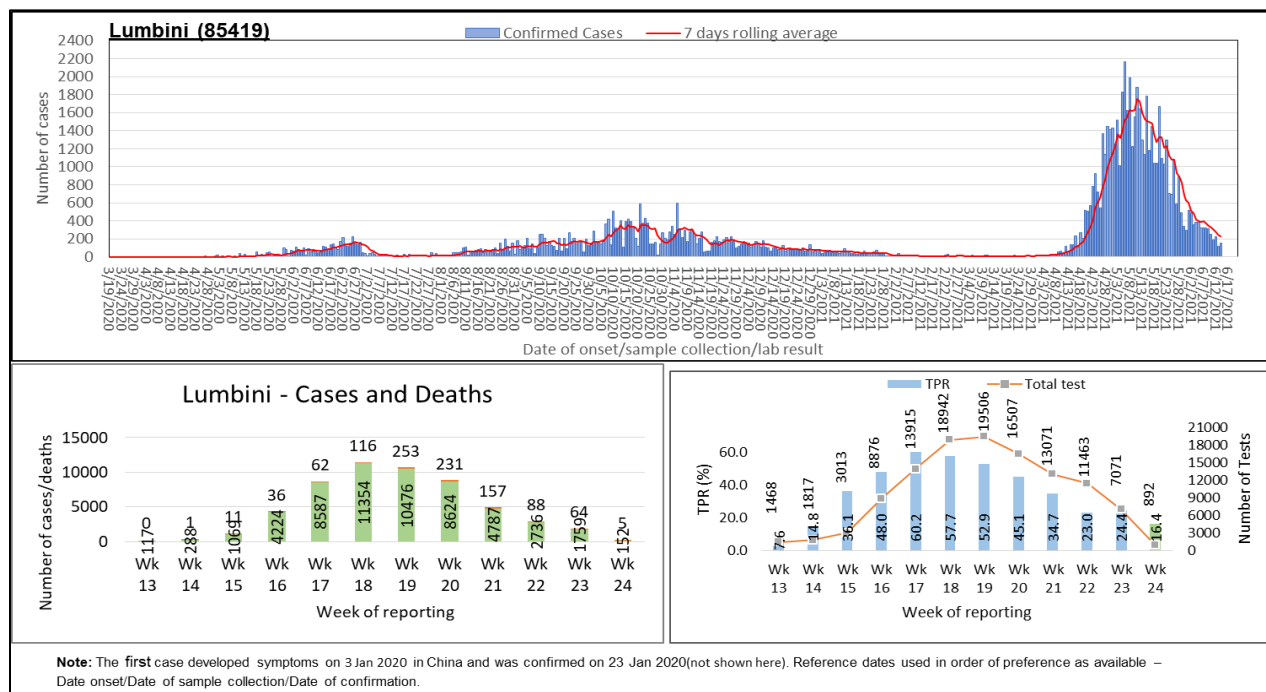
There were 1334 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since week 11, new cases are steadily increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 48% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 29 deaths reported in the past week, 41% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 21.3% in the past week. A total of 5263 tests were performed in the past week, 46% less than that of the previous week.



In Bagmati, 9573 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 35% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 204 deaths reported in the past week, 19% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 28.1% in the past week. A total of 37478 tests were performed in the past week, 20% less than that of the previous week.

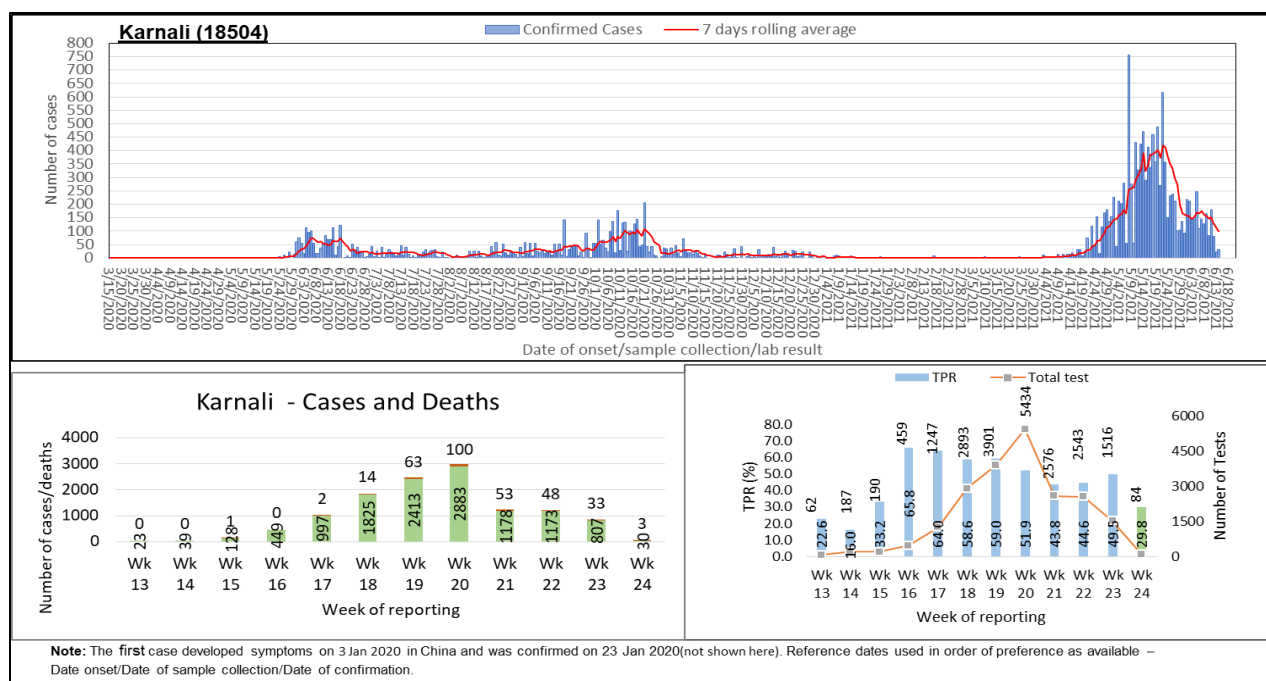


In Gandaki, 2427 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 30% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 55 deaths reported in the past week, 29% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki increased to 30.5% in the past week. A total of 6249 tests were performed in the past week, 40% less than that of the previous week.

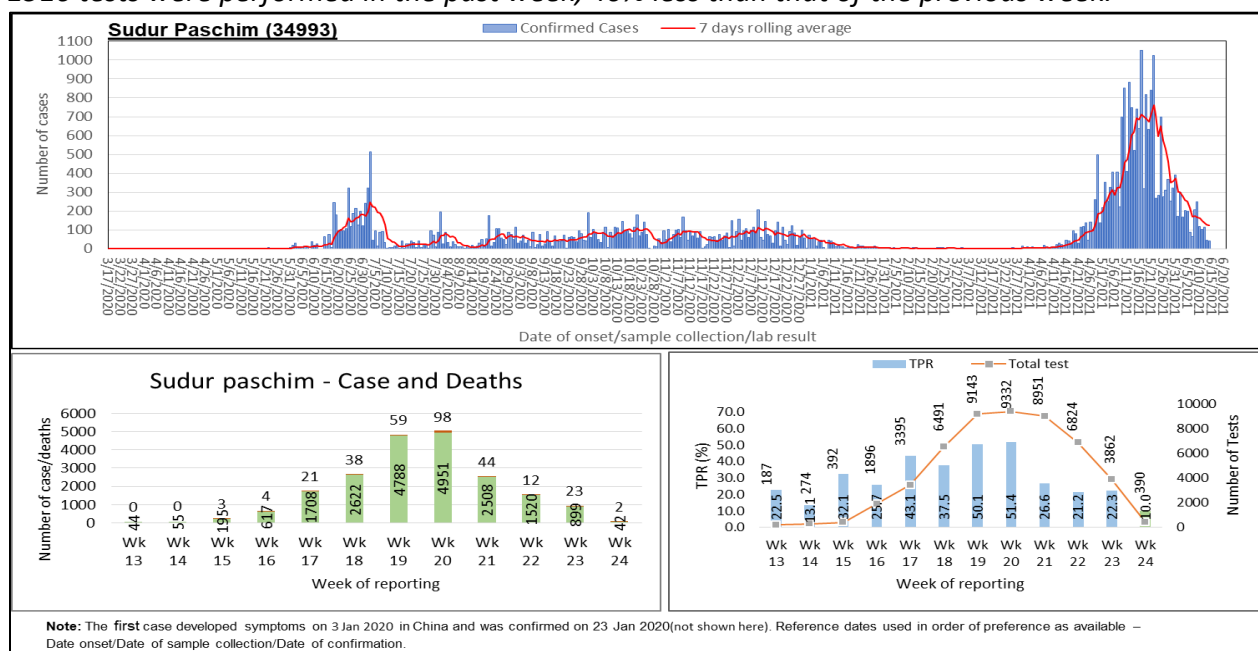


Lumbini reported 1759 new cases in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are increasing significantly. However, the cases have decreased by 36% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 64 deaths reported in the past week, 27% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini increased to 24.4% in the past week. A total of 7071 tests were performed in the past week, 38% less than that of the previous week.



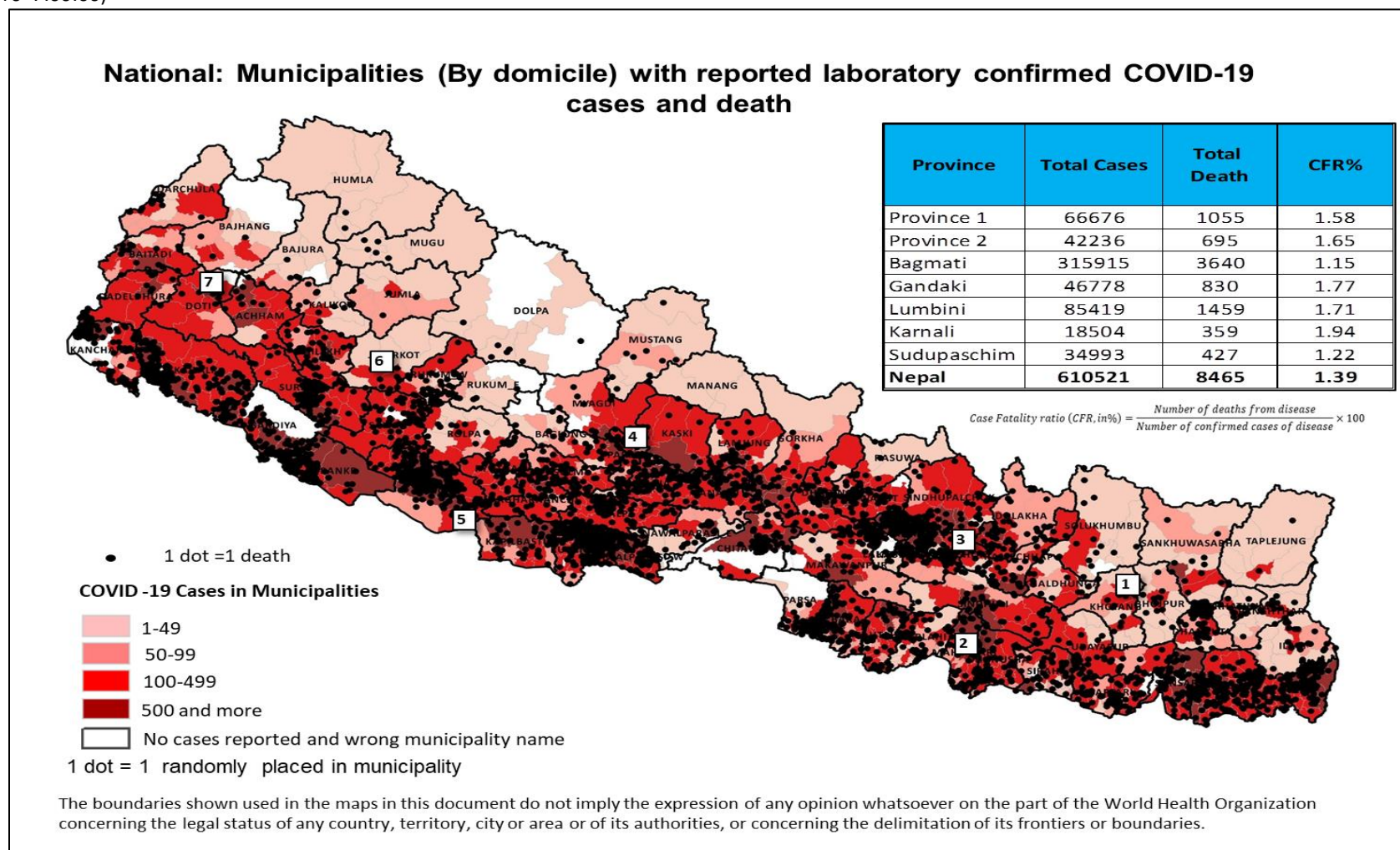


In Karnali, 807 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 31% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 33 deaths reported in the past week, 31% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali increased to 49.5% in the past week. A total of 1516 tests were performed in the past week, 40% less than that of the previous week.



In Sudurpashchim, 899 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 41% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 23 deaths reported in the past week, 92% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim increased to 22.3% in the past week. A total of 3862 tests were performed in the past week, 43% less than that in the previous week.

**Figure 3: National -Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 610521)(Data reported on 15 June 2021 TO 7:00:00)**



*Cases and deaths have been reported in high numbers from Bagmati Province, mostly from Kathmandu valley area. The overall case fatality ratio (CFR) of Nepal is 1.39%. However, the CFR is relatively high in Karnali Province with 1.94% and Gandaki Province with 1.77%.*



**Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.** (Data reported on 15 June 2021 TO 7:00:00)

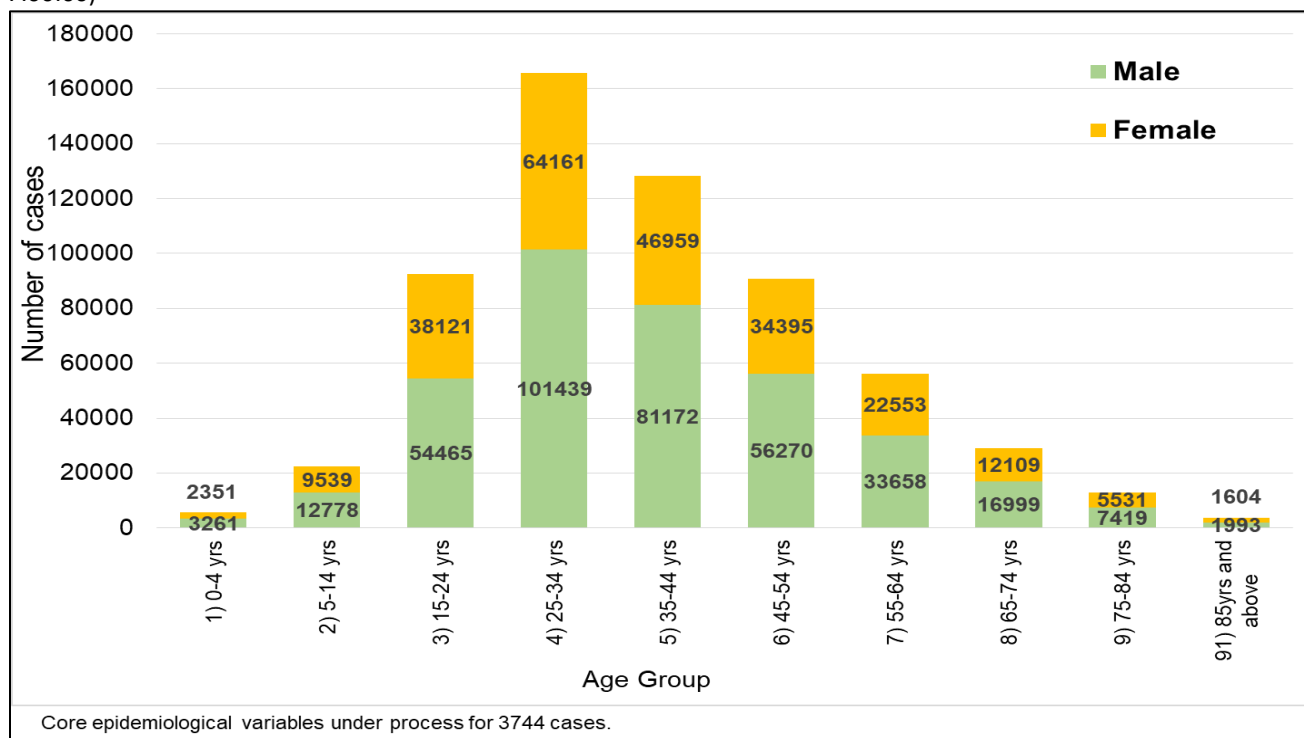
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	66676	2750	69426	11.1	1055	Community transmission	2750	8911	11661	17.4	198
Province 2	42236	274	42510	6.8	695	Community transmission	274	4003	4277	6.4	72
Bagmati	315915	3634	319549	51.2	3640	Community transmission	3634	25264	28898	43.2	435
Gandaki	46778	2323	49101	7.9	830	Community transmission	2323	6101	8424	12.6	129
Lumbini	85419	2536	87955	14.1	1459	Community transmission	2536	4647	7183	10.7	140
Karnali	18504	839	19343	3.1	359	Community transmission	839	2010	2849	4.3	74
Sudurpashchim	34993	1078	36071	5.8	427	Community transmission	1078	2461	3539	5.3	31
<b>National Total</b>	<b>610521</b>	<b>13434*</b>	<b>623955</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8465</b>	<b>Community transmission</b>	<b>13434</b>	<b>53397</b>	<b>66831</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1079</b>

*\*Total reported in HEOC Sitrep of 14 June 21339; IMU reported 13434 of them*

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 stay.

**Figure 4: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 606777)**(Data reported on 15 June 2021 T0 7:00:00)



*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 COVID-19 confirmed cases (N = 610521)**(Data reported on 15 June 2021 T0 7:00:00)

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Death (male)	Death (female)	Deaths with any known comorbid condition	Age specific case fatality ratio (%)
0-4 yrs	5612	11	15	8	0.46
5-14 yrs	22317	9	7	8	0.07
15-24 yrs	92586	58	63	37	0.13
25-34 yrs	165600	280	171	85	0.27
35-44 yrs	128131	678	304	186	0.77
45-54 yrs	90665	1030	454	364	1.64
55-64 yrs	56211	1252	539	520	3.19
65-74 yrs	29108	1183	599	650	6.12
75-84 yrs	12950	823	444	484	9.78
85+ yrs	3597	337	190	168	14.65
Unknown	3744	12	6	10	0.48
<b>National</b>	<b>610521</b>	<b>5673</b>	<b>2792</b>	<b>2520</b>	<b>1.39</b>

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

*A total of 8,465 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 5,673 (67.0%) were males and 2,792 (33.0%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 2,520 persons (29.8%) had at least one*

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*known comorbidity. Although the overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1 %, the CFR progressively increases with age beyond 65 years of age, ranging from 6.1% to 14.7%.*

## **PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

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

- MoHP organized three separate meetings with 1. Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), 2. Chief District Officers (CDOs) and 3. Municipal Mayors and Deputy Mayors to discuss about COVID-19 response and way forward.
  - The meeting was attended by the Hon'ble Health Minister, Secretary and Chief Specialists along with Directors from the various Divisions/Centers.
  - The federal team highlighted the importance of contact tracing, testing and continued efforts in strengthening health systems.
  - The team recommended to use antigen-based tests at the community level to identify and isolate cases as MoHP has secured more than 2 million antigen kits.
- COVID-19 vaccination campaign for the first dose of SAR-CoV-2 vaccine (VeroCell) started throughout the country for 60 – 64 year old population in Kathmandu valley and 62-64 years age group in the remaining 74 districts from 08 June 2021. As of 14 June 2021, 325047 out of 662367 people were vaccinated with VeroCell vaccine.
- Community-based antigen testing is ongoing at the provincial level with initiation from the local level and with the support from the District health offices. Antigen testing is also being conducted at the Point of Entry sites across the country. Regular meetings at local and provincial level are ongoing to resolve the issues related to Case Investigation and Contact Tracing (CICT) and antigen testing.
- Government of Nepal has been receiving medical equipment, supplies and health commodities from the various countries and donor agencies. Within the reporting time frame, the following countries and donor agencies have provided logistics support:
  - Government of Federal Republic of Germany
  - EU member states- Slovenia, Austria and Malta
  - UNDP Nepal

### **What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?**

#### ***Laboratory Capacity***

- WHO Nepal has been providing technical support to NPHL in the following activities:
  - Monitoring the quality standard of designated COVID-19 laboratories in the country through the National Quality Assurance Program (NQAP). A total of 11 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The results of 16 participating laboratories were satisfactory with ≥90% result. However, for the remaining 2 laboratories, the result was <90%.

- Verification, preparation and dissemination for results of fourth round of SARS-CoV-2 real time PCR assay proficiency Panel to 34 designated COVID-19 labs. The result of 31 laboratories were satisfactory with  $\geq 90\%$  and the remaining 3 laboratories were  $< 90\%$ .
- Validation of 2019-nCoV Antigen test kit (colloidal gold method) kit. The kit was unacceptable to be used as per bench work evaluation.
- Sample shipment (48 extracted RNA of SARS-CoV-2) to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, Delhi, India for genetic sequencing. The results are awaited.
- WHO Nepal supported in conducting virtual session on “Discussion on SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequence uploading in GISAID-NPHL-IGIB”. Staff from NPHL and WHO participated actively in the session and discussed uploading data in GISAID (Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data).

### ***Technical Planning and Operations***

- A virtual meeting was conducted on 13 June 2021 with the Chief Administrative Officer of the COVID-19 Unified Hospital (Bir Hospital) and WHO Nepal colleagues to discuss on ‘Rapid assessment tool for hospital preparedness’. Following discussions and decisions were made during the meeting:
  - The rapid assessment tool for hospital preparedness was approved, following the revision of all the components of the tool.
  - Orientation is to be given to all liaison officers in “Unified COVID-19 hospital” on 15 June 2021 to assess all 13 hospitals using the tool.

### ***Point of Entry***

- Chief district officers of Kathmandu (Link [Here](#)), Bhaktapur (Link [Here](#)), and Lalitpur (Link [Here](#)) have decided to extend the ongoing lockdown officially with a prohibitory order, imposed in the valley by seven days, until 21 June 2021.
  - The lockdown, however, will be a bit flexible as the officials have introduced relaxation measures.
  - From 15 June 2021, the following businesses will be allowed to operate:
    - Groceries : Until 11 AM every morning
    - Book and stationery shops: : Until 11 AM every morning
    - Construction material shops : After 4 PM every afternoon
    - Online delivery to be allowed
    - Agricultural works to be allowed
    - Visa application and other procedures to be allowed
- WHO Nepal is providing support to renovate health desks at the Points of Entry of Kakarvitta ground crossing, Province 1. WHO Nepal will transport two tents and prepare a basement at the existing Health Desk to support the building of an improved structure.

## **Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- Science in 5 videos were translated, dubbed, and published (8- 14 June 2021):

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
41	Vaccines, pregnancy, menstruation, lactation and fertility  खोप, गर्भावस्था, मासिक धर्म, स्तनपान आ प्रजनन क्षमता	Maithili	<a href="#">Link</a>
41	Vaccines, pregnancy, menstruation, lactation and fertility  कोभिड-१९ खोपहरू, गर्भावस्था, महिनावारी, स्तनपान तथा उर्वरता	Nepali	<a href="#">Link</a>

- The latest episodes were also shared with WHO HQ and WHO, Country Office for India, to be disseminated via their respective channels.
- The op-ed, written by Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh, World Health Organization Regional Director for South-East Asia, titled - *No country is safe until we are all safe* - was published by Nepali Times (link [here](#)) in English.
- The web story, *Eleven thousand healthcare workers trained on how to care for critically ill COVID-19 patients*, was published on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- The announcement of the first session in the *Dissemination of Best Practices on Management of COVID-19*, on ventilator management and the role of steroids in management of COVID-19, was published on Facebook (link [here](#)).
- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
  - Daily Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring, and
  - The latest *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*
- Infographics on the following topics were shared via WCO Nepal social media:
  - How To Talk About Vaccines (English): [Facebook link 1](#) | [Facebook Link 2](#) | [Twitter Link 1](#)
  - If You Are Prioritized for Vaccines (Facebook; English): [Link 1](#)
  - Public Health Measures during Vaccination (Facebook; English): [Link 1](#)

## **Field Operation and Logistics**

- WHO Nepal has been supporting the ongoing renovation, flooring and furnishing of the unified COVID Hospital Control Room and also provided IT equipment (Laptops, Desktops and TV screen) and an internet connection to the control room.
- MoHP has received USAID and WHO-supported Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items (Gown and N95 respiratory Masks) and stocked them at Management Division's warehouse. DoHS.

## **What are the health clusters partners doing?**

- Weekly Health Cluster Coordination meeting (every Thursday) for health sector response is ongoing at the Federal level for coordinated COVID-19 response support to MOHP. Provincial Health Directorate Offices are organizing the Provincial Level Health Cluster Coordination meeting as and when on a required basis.



- MOHP re-convened the weekly coordination meeting (every Tuesday) with COVID hospitals and PHDOs from 20 April 2021.
- Health partners are providing their support to government for the continuation of COVID and non-COVID responses throughout the country. The support provided through Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) especially with Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC), Health Coordination Division (HCD), Policy, Planning & Monitoring Division (PP&MD), Epidemiology and Diseases Control Division (EDCD), National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), National Health Training Centre (NHTC), National Health Education Information Communication Centre (NHEICC), Family Welfare Division (FWD), Management Division (MD), Hub hospital networks; Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) especially with Provincial Health Directorate Offices, District Public/Health Offices, and municipalities.
- WHO and UNICEF are providing support for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in close coordination with External Development Partners (EDPs) which includes:
  - Micro planning including financing for the procurement of vaccination;
  - Training/orientations – to health personnel at various levels, local governments;
  - Provision of Logistics support – vehicle, cold chain boxes, delivery of vaccines, transportation of beneficiaries to the vaccination site;
  - Information Technology - registration, information communication, data management, IMU app etc;
  - Risk communication and community engagement – production and dissemination of messages, public awareness campaigns and
  - Continuation of Technical Assistance.

#### **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 regarding coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic from WHO, please visit [here](#)
- 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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