Situation Update #70- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 10 - 16 August 2021

HIGHLIGHTS  *Data as of HEOC of MoHP Situation Report, 16 August 2021

- Of the total COVID-19 positive cases, 93.2% (685140) of cases have recovered and 5.3% (39,371) of cases are active.
- Of the total active cases, 91.5% (36,036) are in home isolation; 8.4% (3,335) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 2% (795) of active cases require ICU admission, 24.7% (197) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Twenty one districts have reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (17,352) reported this week, 27.7% (4802) are from Kathmandu district. Most of the new cases (39.6% (6867) have been reported from Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 16 August 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Type</th>
<th>First Dose</th>
<th>Second Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ChAdOx1-S*</td>
<td>1875476</td>
<td>866375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell)</td>
<td>2841460</td>
<td>1336325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson and Johnson Vaccine</td>
<td>Single Dose</td>
<td>1287365</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*S COVISHIELD (manufactured by Serum Institute of India), Japanese-made COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine, Swedish AstraZeneca vaccine

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 17 August 2021, T07:00:00 hours (week no. 33), a total of 734,838 (19.5%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 3,767,665 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 76,015 (18.9%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 401,371 Antigen RDT have been performed nationwide.
- As of 9 May 2021, all 7 provinces in the country are experiencing community transmission.
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in past week (Week 32) ranged from 5.1% (Province 2) to 46.2% (Karnali Province), with national positivity rate averaging 25.5%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 60% (439,814/734,838) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (344,141/439,814) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).
• NPHL reported 90 diagnostic and surveillance samples \((40\text{ tested at National Influenza Center (NIC) including 29 outbreak sample and 50 samples tested at Walter Reed/AFRIMS Research Unit Nepal (WARUN)})\) on EPID-week 32 (9-15 August 2021).
  o 35 samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3 and 26 samples tested positive for Influenza B.
  o None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 on the samples tested at NIC (this is exclusive of SARS-CoV-2 reporting of the Influenza samples from WARUN)
  o Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on EPID-week 32 (9-15 August 2021), 186 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza for the same week. 51 samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3, and 10 samples tested positive for Influenza B Victoria.
• From 4 January until 15 August 2021:
  o A total of 444 samples have tested positive for Influenza (388 Influenza A/H3, 49 Influenza B Victoria, 1 Co-Infection of Influenza A/H3 and Influenza B Victoria, 5 Influenza B Un-subtyped) from 3663 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
  o Similarly, 273 samples have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1163 samples (sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples). All these positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000) (Data as of 16 August 2021; WHO COVID-19 Dashboard)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEAR Country</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>COVID-19 Cases</th>
<th>Incidence (per 100,000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>172809384</td>
<td>1425861</td>
<td>825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>756123</td>
<td>2577</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1420972759</td>
<td>32225513</td>
<td>2268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>272248454</td>
<td>3871738</td>
<td>1422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>546399</td>
<td>79289</td>
<td>14511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>55008057</td>
<td>356985</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>30201100</td>
<td>734838</td>
<td>2433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>22036689</td>
<td>362074</td>
<td>1643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>66186727</td>
<td>928314</td>
<td>1403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor Leste</td>
<td>1317780</td>
<td>12682</td>
<td>962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAR</td>
<td>2042083472</td>
<td>39999871</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.
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 16 August 2021 was 15611 which is 22% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed in 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 = 734838) (Data reported on 17 August 2021 up to 7:00:00)
Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2C): Y-axis scale varies between Provinces

There were 3078 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 4% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 30 deaths reported in the past week, 47% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 remained stable with 29.3% in the past week. A total of 9899 tests were performed in the past week, 4% less than that of the previous week.
There were 217 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 7% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 6 deaths reported in the past week, 100% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 5.1% in the past week. A total of 1049 tests were performed in the past week, 23% less than that of the previous week.
In Bagmati, 9328 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 19, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 2% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 102 deaths reported in the past week, 16% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 21.3% in the past week. A total of 50220 tests were performed in the past week, 5% more than that of the previous week.

In Gandaki, 3071 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 21, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 5% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 41 deaths reported in the past week, 11% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 35.3% in the past week. A total of 6550 tests were performed in the past week, 10% more than that of the previous week.
Lumbini reported 1068 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in week 19, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 4% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 12 deaths reported in the past week, 40% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini increased to 22.2% in the past week. A total of 4323 tests were performed in the past week, similar to that of the previous week.
In Karnali, 321 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 12% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 4 deaths reported in the past week, 56% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali decreased to 46.2% in the past week. A total of 554 tests were performed in the past week, 6% less than that of the previous week.

In Sudurpashchim, 312 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 12% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 4 deaths reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim increased to 18.8% in the past week. A total of 1243 tests were performed in the past week, 12% less than that in the previous week.
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 1.41%. However, the CFR is relatively high in Karnali Province with 2.10% and Lumbini Province with 1.77%.
**Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.** (Data reported on 17 August 2021 up to 07:00:00)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Province</th>
<th>Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests</th>
<th>Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test</th>
<th>Total confirmed cumulative cases</th>
<th>% of total confirmed cumulative cases</th>
<th>Total cumulative deaths</th>
<th>Transmission classification*</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases in last 14 days</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases in last 14 days RT-PCR test</th>
<th>% of total confirmed cumulative cases in last 14 days</th>
<th>Total Deaths in last 14 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Province 1</td>
<td>93764</td>
<td>20798</td>
<td>114562</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>1468</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>3646</td>
<td>6845</td>
<td>10491</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province 2</td>
<td>45304</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>45753</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>753</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagmati</td>
<td>375081</td>
<td>16423</td>
<td>391504</td>
<td>48.9</td>
<td>4403</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>2563</td>
<td>20258</td>
<td>22821</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gandaki</td>
<td>69455</td>
<td>13212</td>
<td>82667</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>1160</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>3007</td>
<td>6376</td>
<td>9383</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumbini</td>
<td>92929</td>
<td>10884</td>
<td>103813</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>1644</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>2079</td>
<td>2222</td>
<td>4301</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnali</td>
<td>20972</td>
<td>2559</td>
<td>23531</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>882</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudurpashchim</td>
<td>37333</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>39305</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Total</td>
<td>734838</td>
<td>66297*</td>
<td>801135</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10327</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>11581</td>
<td>37468</td>
<td>49049</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>401</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total reported in HEOC Sitrep of 16 August 76015; but IMU reported 66297

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 a city’s 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.
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 = 734838) (Data reported on 17 August 2021 up to 7:00:00)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases</th>
<th>Death (male)</th>
<th>Death (female)</th>
<th>Deaths with any known comorbid condition</th>
<th>Age specific case fatality ratio (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 yrs</td>
<td>6897</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-14 yrs</td>
<td>27300</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 yrs</td>
<td>111504</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 yrs</td>
<td>197182</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 yrs</td>
<td>152953</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 yrs</td>
<td>108804</td>
<td>1240</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 yrs</td>
<td>68672</td>
<td>1502</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>3.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74 yrs</td>
<td>36360</td>
<td>1420</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>5.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84 yrs</td>
<td>16465</td>
<td>1009</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+ yrs</td>
<td>4613</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>4088</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>734838</td>
<td>6838</td>
<td>3489</td>
<td>3117</td>
<td>1.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 10,327 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 6,838 (66.2%) were males and 3,489 (33.8%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 3,117 persons (30.2%) had at least one 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 6.0% to 14.2%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Update
  - Nepal is currently administering three types of COVID-19 vaccines (COVISHIELD (manufactured by Serum Institute of India)/Japanese-made COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine/ Swedish AstraZeneca vaccine, Vero Cell and Johnson and Johnson).
  - COVID-19 vaccination campaign is going simultaneously in all provinces for the first and second doses of Sinopharm; and Janssen vaccines to specific target group as specified by MoHP and as per National Deployment and Vaccination Plan.
  - Nepal has also started second dose of AstraZeneca vaccine campaign from 9 August targeting previously vaccinated ≥ 65 years age and other groups who had received COVISHIELD vaccine as the first dose.
  - As of 16 August 2021, a total of 8,351,529 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered.
  - Around 4,764,856 (15.69%) of the total population have received the first dose, 3,586,673 (11.81%) have received the full dose.

- Government of Nepal is receiving medical equipment, supplies and health commodities from many countries and donor agencies. Within the reporting time frame, the following have provided logistics support:
  - Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Nepal handed over 30 Ventilators & 30 CPAP Breathing Equipment
  - WHO Nepal handed over 120 tablets for digitalization of COVID-19 vaccination records, 26,000 test kits to National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) to support genome sequencing

- The second round of nationwide Sero-Prevalence of SARS COV-2 study which started from 5 July 2021 is ongoing across all seven provinces. MoHP officials along with the WHO team are monitoring the survey (Pictures below).
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 29 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. Among those participating laboratories, 14 laboratories had excellent result with 100% concordance. However, due to discrepancies in the report, results from the remaining 15 laboratories are awaited.
  - Validation of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Nucleic Acid Detection kit. The result showed 78.78% sensitivity and 100% specificity.
  - Monitoring of sample collection, sample tracking, sample processing for ELISA test and, Internal Quality Control (IQC) panel preparation for second round of SARS-CoV-2 sero surveillance. As of 9 August 2021, 11,129 samples of 13,700 samples for sero surveillance have been received at NPHL.
- WHO Nepal provided technical support to National Influenza Centre (NIC), NPHL in conducting virtual meeting on SEAR Informal Lab Network on 16 August 2021.

**Point of Entry**

- Prohibitory Order imposed in Kathmandu Valley since 29 April 2021 has been further extended by two week from 12 August 2021 until 24 August 2021 by the District Administration Offices of Kathmandu district (Link [Here](#)), Lalitpur district (Link [Here](#)) and Bhaktapur district (Link [Here](#)). Compared to previous orders, DAOs have decided to lift all the restrictive measures against public and private transportation and allow more operation.
hours for shops while extending the ongoing lockdown for 13 more days to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Technical Planning and Operations**

- The Mental Health and Disability sub-cluster virtual meeting held on 12 August 2021, was chaired by, Vice-Chairperson of Project ‘Yes, We Can’ from Sudurpashchim Province. The meeting was facilitated by Provincial coordinator and attended by Health Section Officer (Dhangadhi Sub Metropolitan city), relevant officials of NFDN, Districts, National Human Rights Commission, Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre and WHO with more than 15 members participants. Current situation and challenges with way forward was discussed during the meeting.

- WHO Nepal participated in a meeting with COVID 19 Unified hospital officials to discuss in "establishing the telemedicine service at Unified hospital and other hospitals at different provinces" and "immediate establishment of call center" on 10 August 2021. The meeting concluded with plans for staffing allocation to run the telemedicine center.

- Assessment of 7 hospitals, one in each province under the unified hospital has been completed. The assessment was done using the "Rapid Hospital Readiness Facility Assessment Checklist for COVID-19" with the help of the liaison officers and members of Technical Expertise and WHO Nepal ICS training pillar. The hospital assessed are as follows:
  - Province 1: BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Sunsari district
  - Province 2: Narayani Hospital, Parsa district
  - Bagmati: Bharatpur hospital, Chitwan district
  - Gandaki: Pokhara Academy of Health Sciences, Kaski district
  - Lumbini: Bheri hospital, Banke district
  - Karnali: Surkhet Provincial Hospital, Surkhet district
  - Sudurpashchim: Seti hospital, Kailali district

**Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- WHO Nepal’s support to the NHEICC continued this week by providing risk communication expertise through staff embedded at the NHEICC and also through support in production of audio content for dissemination via Radio Nepal.

- Science in 5 videos were translated, dubbed, and published (10 - 16 August 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Episodes</th>
<th>Titles</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>HIV &amp; COVID-19</td>
<td>Nepali</td>
<td>OneDrive (downloadable link); Facebook link; YouTube link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>HIV &amp; COVID-19</td>
<td>Maithili</td>
<td>OneDrive (downloadable link); Facebook link; YouTube link</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The news of WHO, Country Office for Nepal, supporting the digitization process of the COVID-19 vaccination records, was shared via Facebook (link here) and Twitter (link here).

This joint project of WHO, Country Office for Nepal, and UNDP Nepal, led by Information
Management Unit/Integrated Health Information Management Section (IMU/IHIMS), Management Division, Department of Health Services (DoHS), Ministry of Health and Population, is being implemented in 7 selected municipalities of 7 provinces. In this regard, WHO, Country Office for Nepal, recently handed over 120 tablets to the Information Management Unit at the DoHS in order to facilitate the vaccine registration process. Digitization of vaccine registration is expected to reduce hassle and crowding during vaccination sessions, and also support in ensuring equitable allocation of vaccines.

- The press release *(WHO donates over 2,000 oxygen concentrators and other essential medical supplies to the MoHP)* was shared with members of the Nepali press.

- IEC materials related to *Nepal Mask Campaign* was shared via the following social media links:
  
  I. Key messages, on masks, during the COVID-19 pandemic with the following promo cards were shared:
     
     A. Promo card with elderly I: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
     B. Promo card with elderly II: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
     C. Promo card with elderly III: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
     D. Promo card with youth I: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
     E. Promo card with youth II: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
     F. Promo card with health worker: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
     G. Promo card with children: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
  
  II. Who should wear a medical mask and who should wear a fabric mask?: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
  
  III. Virtual Concert: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
  
  IV. Mistakes one can make while wearing a mask: Facebook [link](#)
  
  V. Do not wear your mask under your chin while talking during the COVID-19 pandemic: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
  
  VI. Should children wear mask during the COVID-19 pandemic?: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
  
  VII. Will wearing a mask stop the flow of oxygen into the body?: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
  
  VIII. Role of youths during the COVID-19 pandemic: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)

- The news of the virtual training to expand skilled human resources, especially healthcare workers involved in paediatric cases, by providing the latest treatment protocols for proper management of COVID-19 cases, was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).

- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
  
  I. Daily *Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring*,
  
  II. Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard, and
  
  III. The latest *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*.

- Infographics on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
  
  I. Smoking and COVID-19.
**Field Operation and Logistics**

- WHO Nepal handed over 26,000 SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR kits to NPHL in the presence of NPHL director on 16 August 2021.
- WHO Nepal Operation Support Logistic (OSL) pillar also provided field operations and logistics support to the WR and his team for their visit to Karnali Province, Surkhet for sero-prevalence monitoring activities from 9 to 13 August 2021.

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

- 64th Health Cluster Coordination Meeting was organized at MoHP on 12 August, with participation of about 59 cluster members. The key actions points were discussed with a request to the partners for their support for effective management of COVID-19 response in the following areas:
  - To follow the one-door coordination mechanism for providing support to the local levels.
  - Support for training and wider dissemination of “case management protocols” throughout the country including data collection from COVID-19 hospitals.
  - Sharing the new estimations and projections based on the findings from seroprevalence study, rapid action plan
- Provincial Health Directorate Offices are organizing Provincial Level Health Cluster Coordination meeting as and when required.
- 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&M), 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; MOHP/Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) especially with Provincial Health Directorate Offices, District Public/Health Offices, and municipalities. COVID-19 response support provided by specialist teams through tele-medicine services.
- 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.

• All members of the Health Cluster are advocating through multiple channels that are available to them for the swift supply of vaccines to Nepal
• Second round of sero-prevalence survey is ongoing throughout the country with technical and financial support from WHO.

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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