

Situation Update #138 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 28 November – 4 December 2022
(EPI Week 48)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 4 December 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 5 December 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.8% (988,782) of cases have recovered, 0.02% (108) are active cases and 1.2% (12,019) are deaths.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (31) reported this week, 67.7% (21) are from Kathmandu district followed by Kavrepalanchowk and Morang districts 9.7% (3). Majority of the new cases 74.2% (23) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 4 December 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 1,000,909

Antigen RDT: 152,211

Cumulative deaths: 12,019

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,979,687

Antigen RDT: 1,461,300

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

60,642,718 (10%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

801,676 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

637,737,550 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,611,874 (100%)

COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 30 November 2022)

Vaccine	First dose	Second dose
Covi-AstraZeneca	5,560,880	4,815,215
Vero Cell	10,381,988	9,255,185
Janssen	3,527,811	
Pfizer	1,407,705	523,327
Paediatric Pfizer	3,325,016	2,940,390
Moderna	3,227,412	2,826,291

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, a total of 78.2% (782,677/1,000,909) 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 44.1% of the national total (441,604/1,000,909), and 81.4% of the provincial total (441,604/542,674).
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 48 ranged from 0.0% (Gandaki and Lumbini province) to 5.9% (Province 1), with a national positivity rate at 1.0%. Madhesh and Karnali province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.

- Nepal reported a 15% increase in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=31) in Epi week 48 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 97% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Bagmati, and Lumbini province.
- Nepal did not report any death in Epi week 48, same as in the previous week.

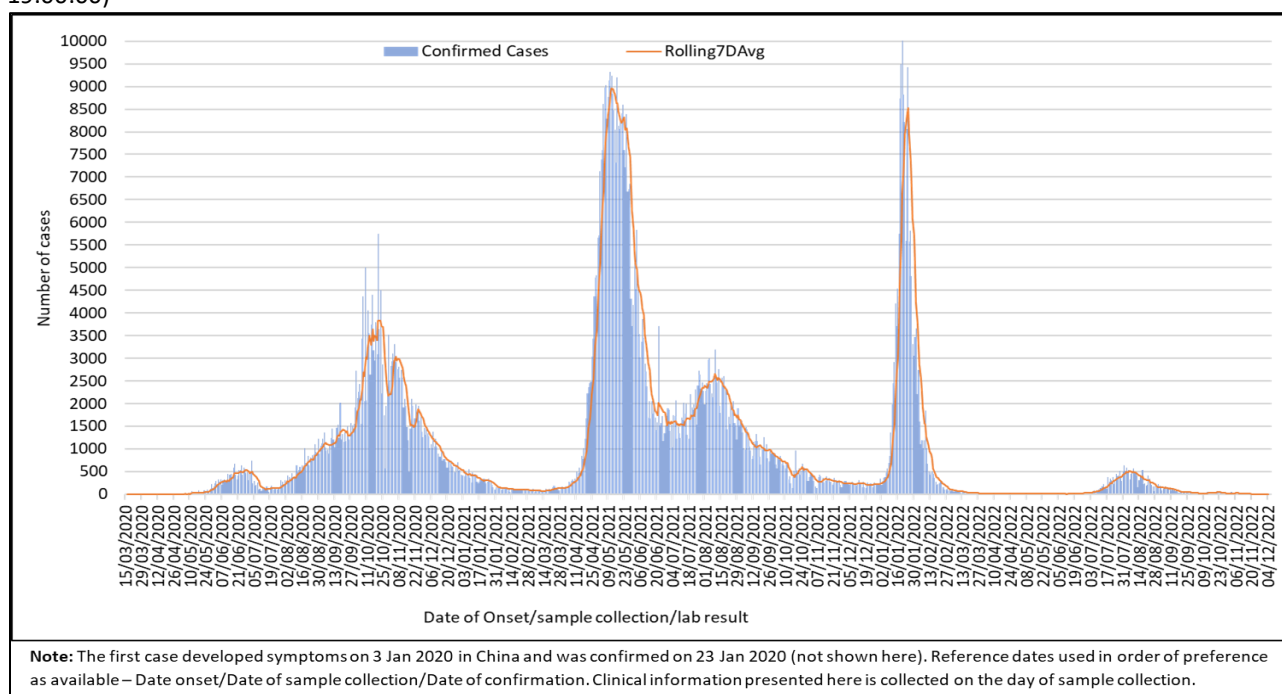
National Influenza Surveillance

- NIC-NPHL reported 12 Diagnostic Influenza samples on EPID-week 48 (28 Nov-4 Dec 2022). One sample was tested Influenza A(H1N1pdm09) positive.
- None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. WHO Nepal has been providing technical support to the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in the following activities:
 - National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL received 37 samples from its sentinel sites i.e. Kanti Children's Hospital (2 samples), Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital (15 samples), and Narayani Hospital (20 samples) for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 testing.
 - One sample tested positive for Influenza A(H1N1pdm09).
 - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on Epi-week 48, 21 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza.
 - All samples tested negative for Influenza A and B.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHL) from Madhesh, Gandaki, Lumbini and Karnali Provinces reported testing of 67 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-week 48.
 - None of the samples tested positive for Influenza A and B and SARS-CoV-2.
 - A total of 1791 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 4 December 2022.
- WARUN reported testing of 8 samples for Influenza on Epi-week 48.
 - One sample tested Influenza A/H3 positive.
- From 3 January 2022 until 4 December 2022:
 - A total of 675 samples tested positive for Influenza (5 Influenza B, 320 Influenza A/H3, 349 Influenza A(H1N1pdm09), and 1 Influenza A (subtyping to be done) from 7,427 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 365 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 3,112 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/>

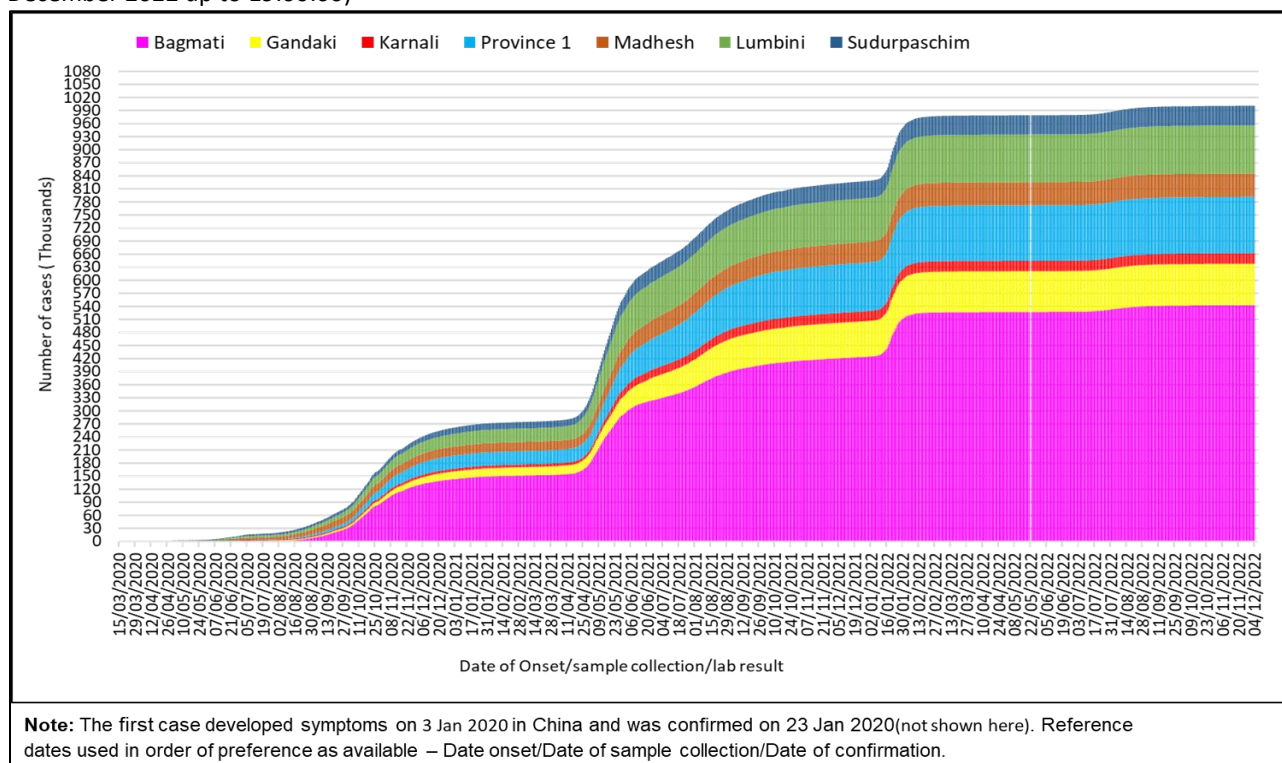
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 1000909)(Data reported on 4 December 2022 up to 19:00:00)



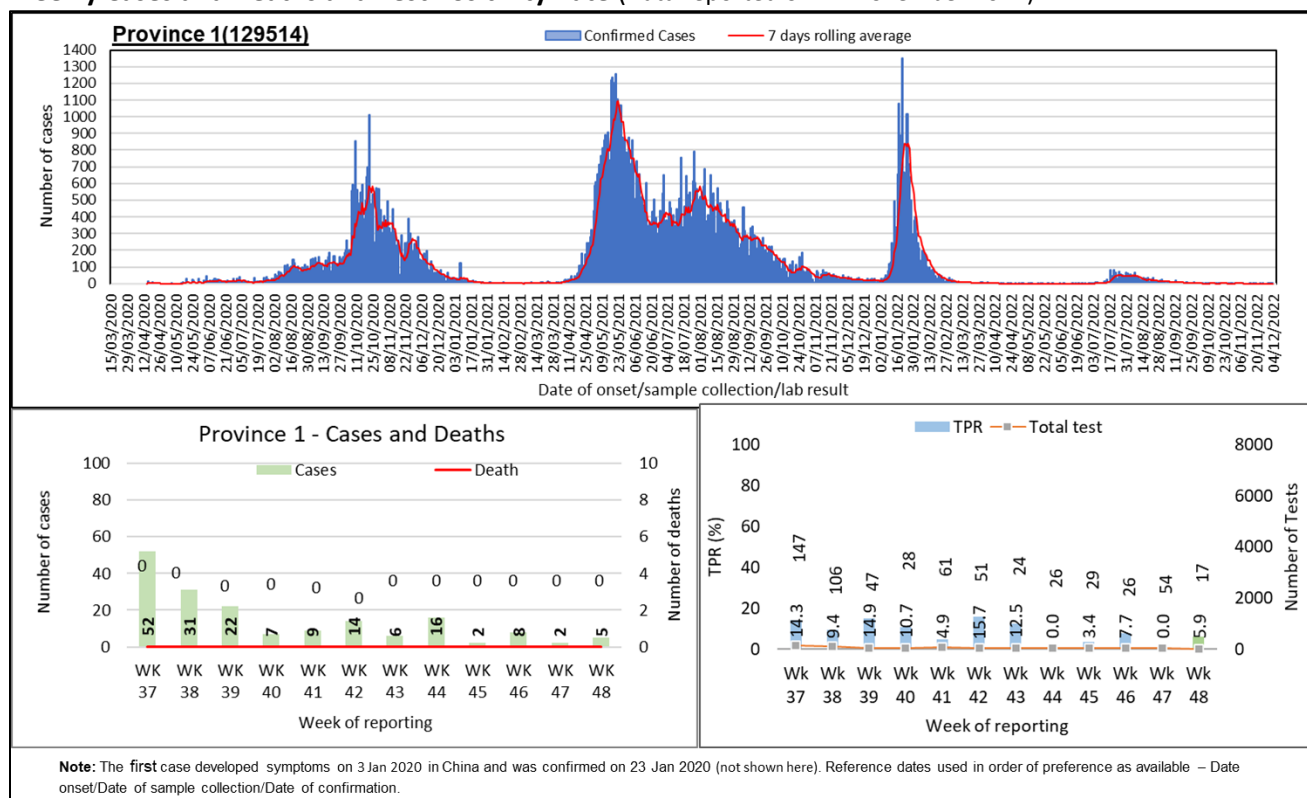
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end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

Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases (N= 1000909)(Data reported on 4 December 2022 up to 19:00:00)



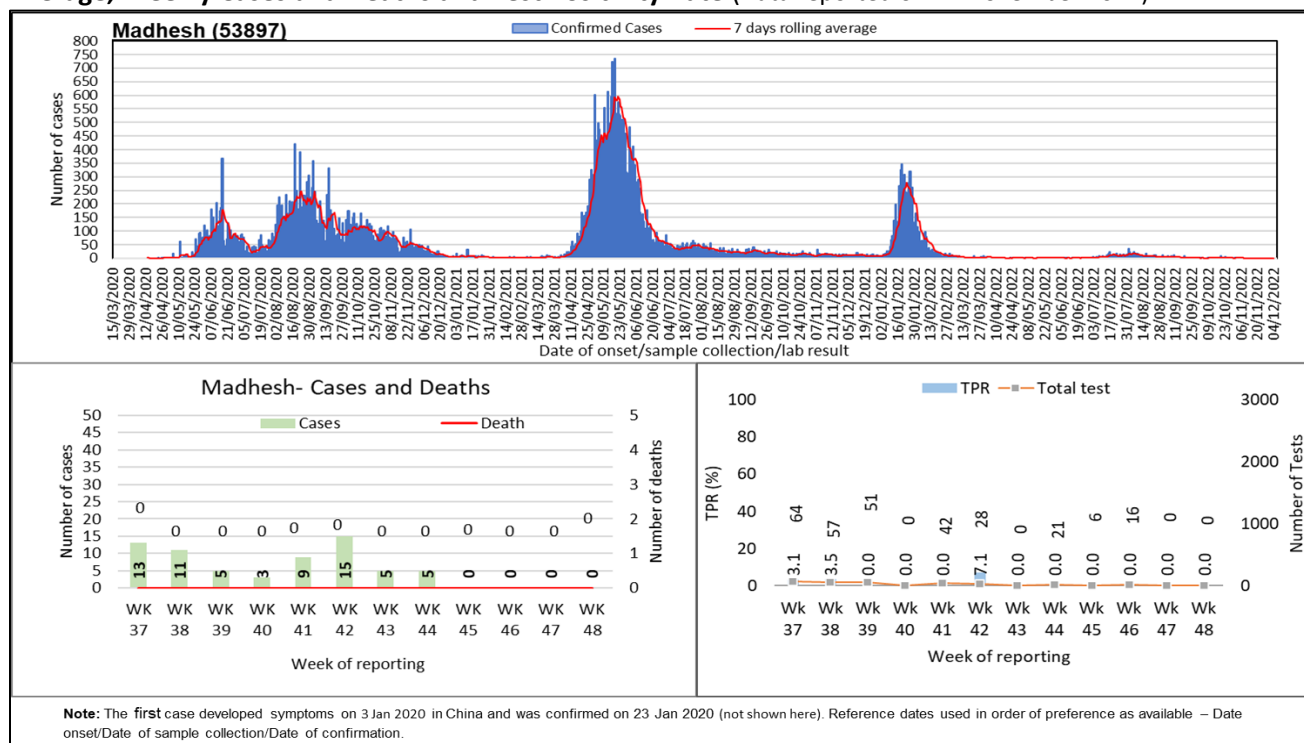
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 27 November 2022)



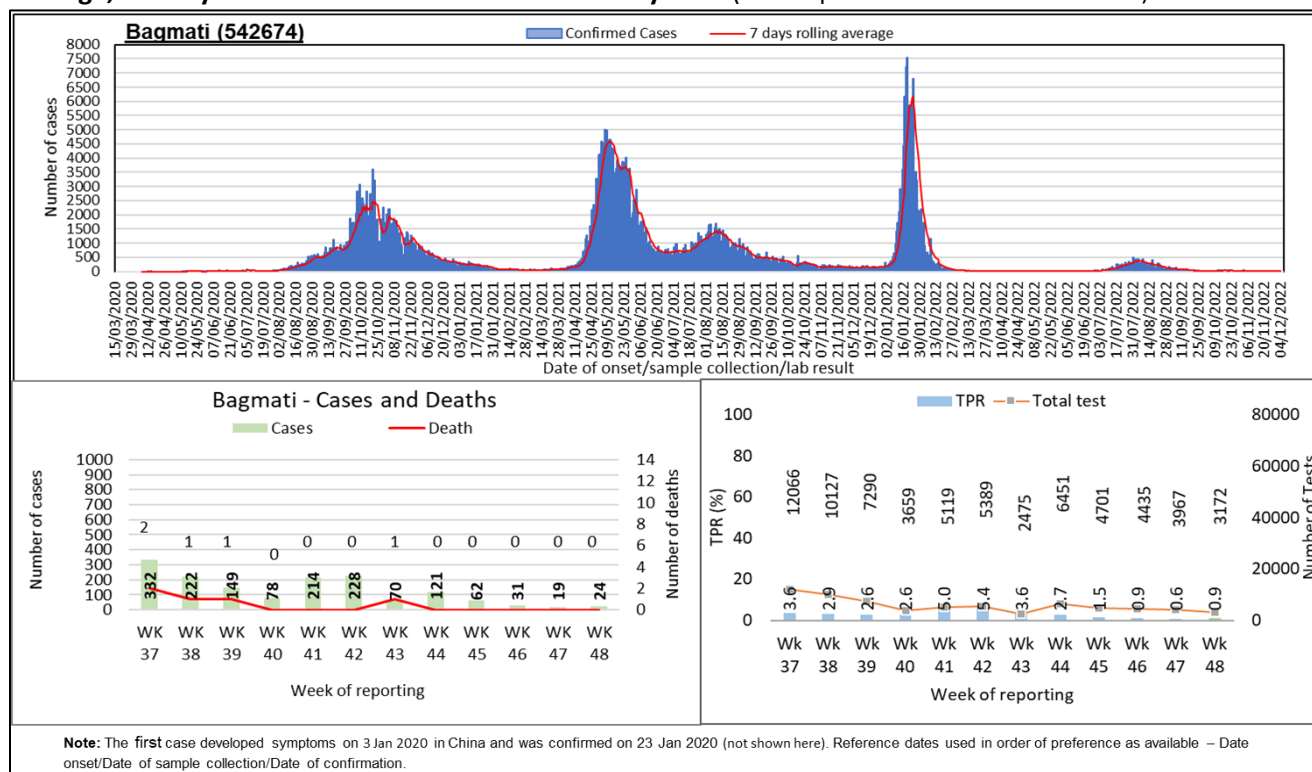
There were 5 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have increased by 150% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 increased to 5.9% in the past week. A total of 17 tests were performed in the past week, 69% 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 27 November 2022)



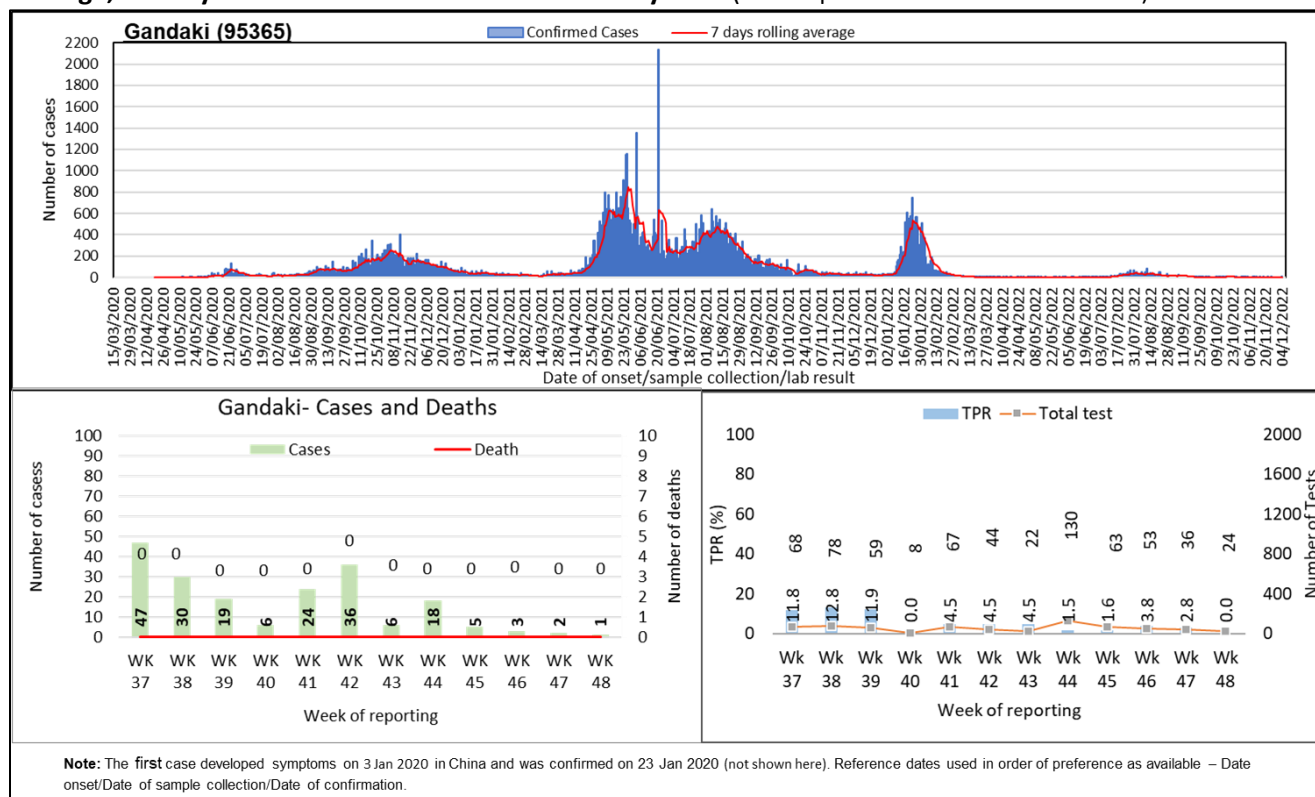
There was no new case reported in the past week in Madhesh province, same as in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. There was no test performed reported in the past week.

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 27 November 2022)



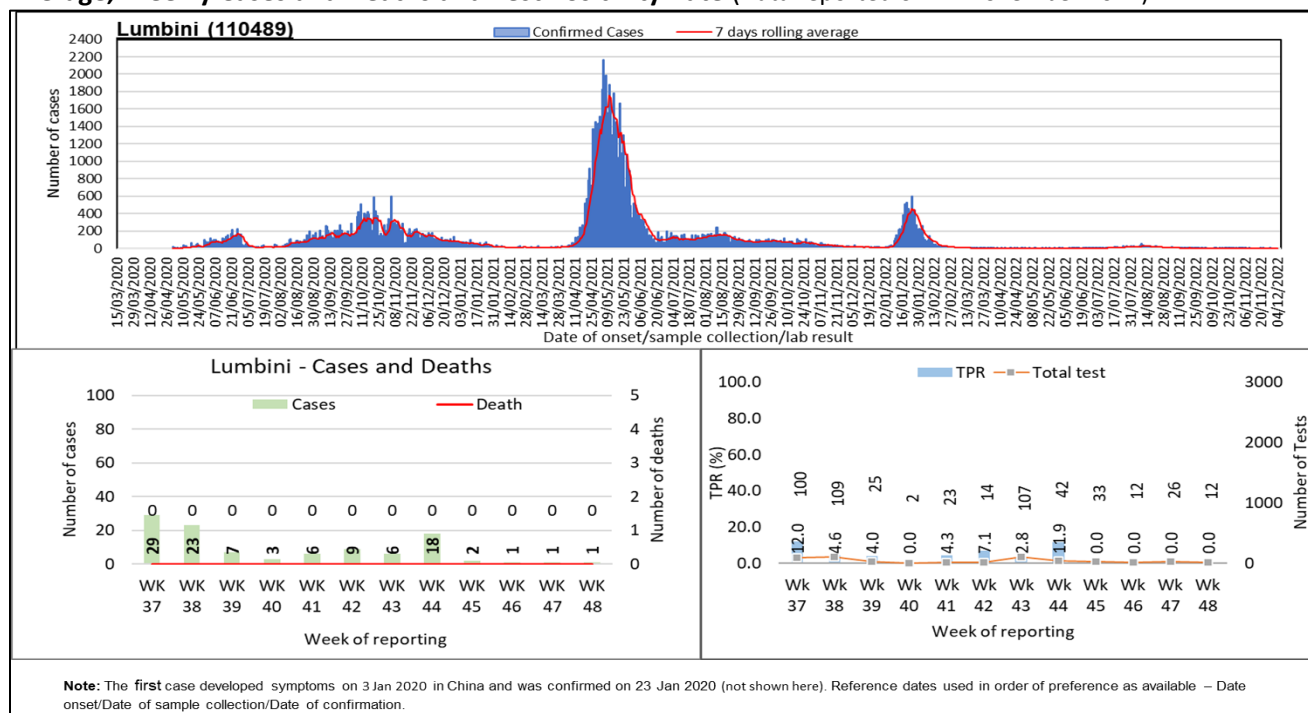
In Bagmati, 24 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 26% in the past week compared to previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati increased to 0.9% in the past week. A total of 3172 tests were performed in the past week, 20% 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 27 November 2022)



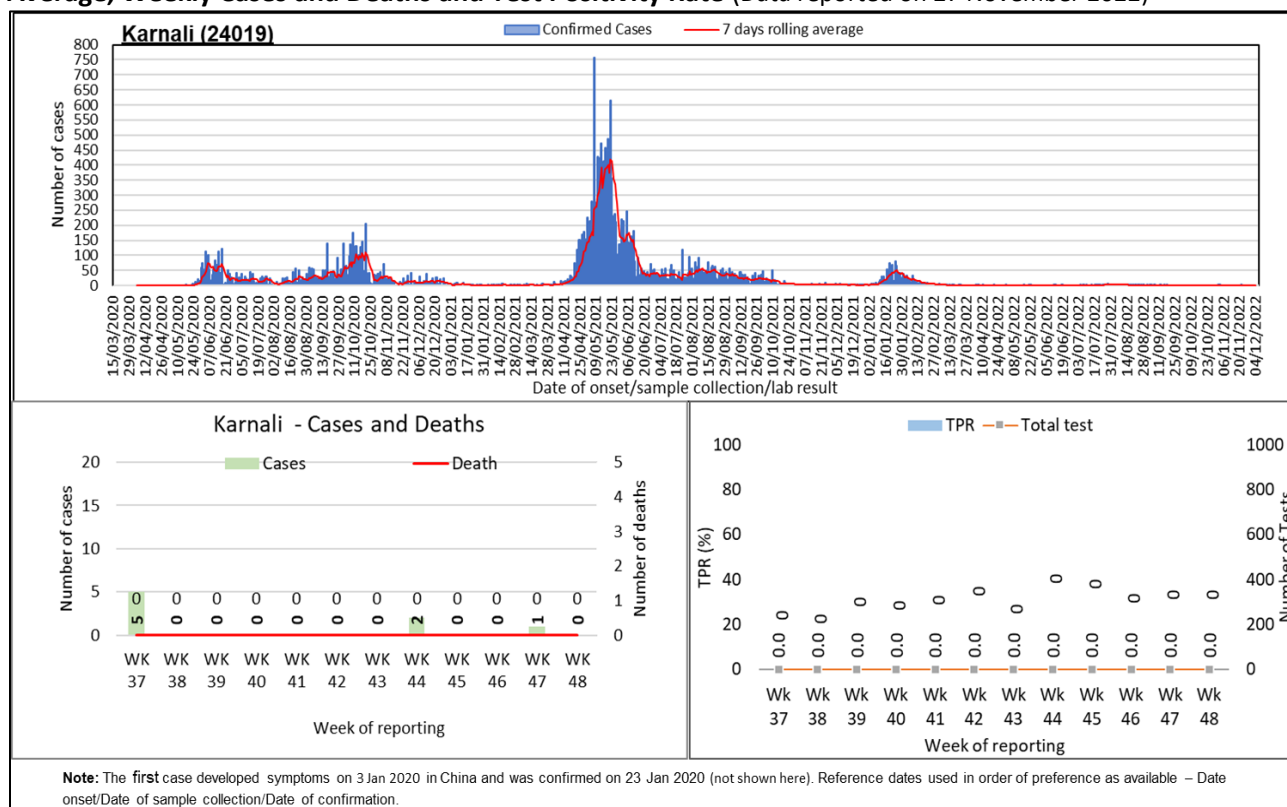
In Gandaki, 1 new case was reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 50% in the past week compared to previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 0.0% in the past week. A total of 24 tests were performed in the past week, 33% less 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 27 November 2022)



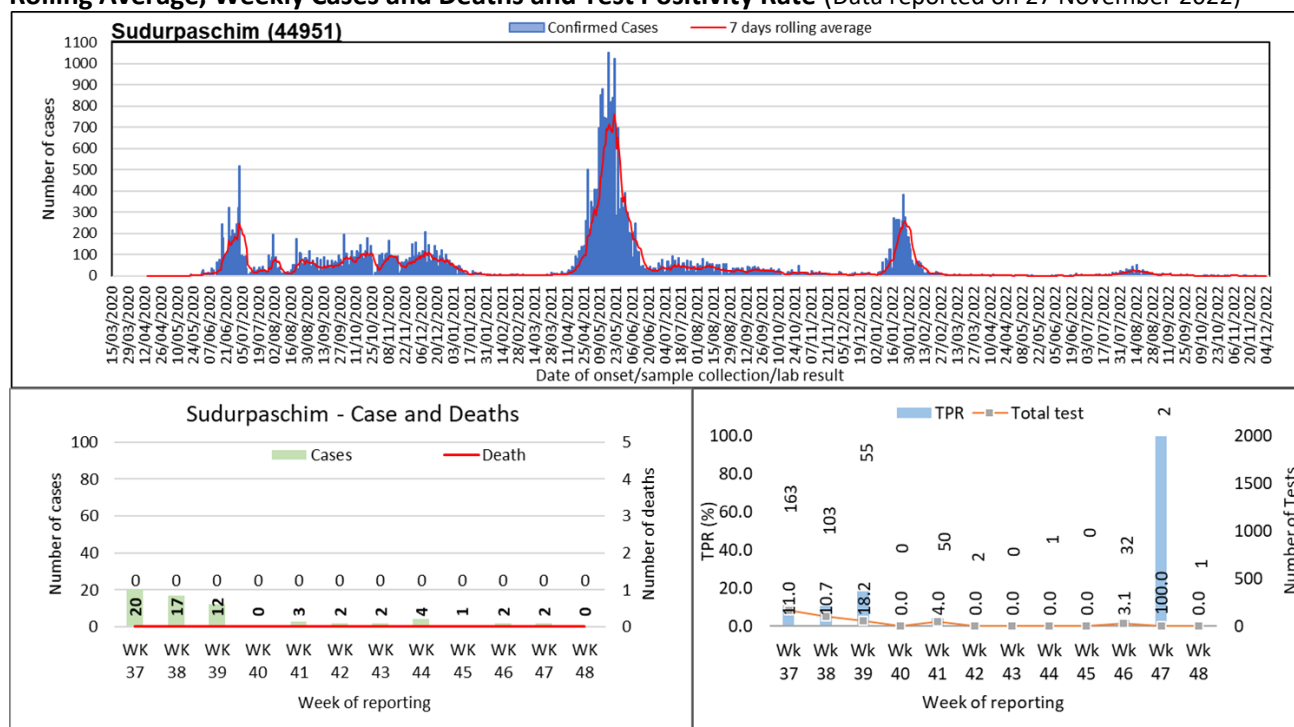
Lumbini reported 1 new case in the past week, same as in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 12 tests were performed in the past week, 54% less than that in the 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 27 November 2022)



In Karnali, no new case was reported in the past week, 100% decrease compared to previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. There was no test performed reported in the past week.

Figure 3A7: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Sudurpaschim Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 27 November 2022)



Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020 (not shown here). Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.

In Sudurpaschim, no new case was reported in the past week, 100% decrease compared to previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpaschim decreased to 0.0% in the past week. A total of 1 test was performed in the past week, 50% less than that reported in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 4 December 2022 up to 19:00:00)

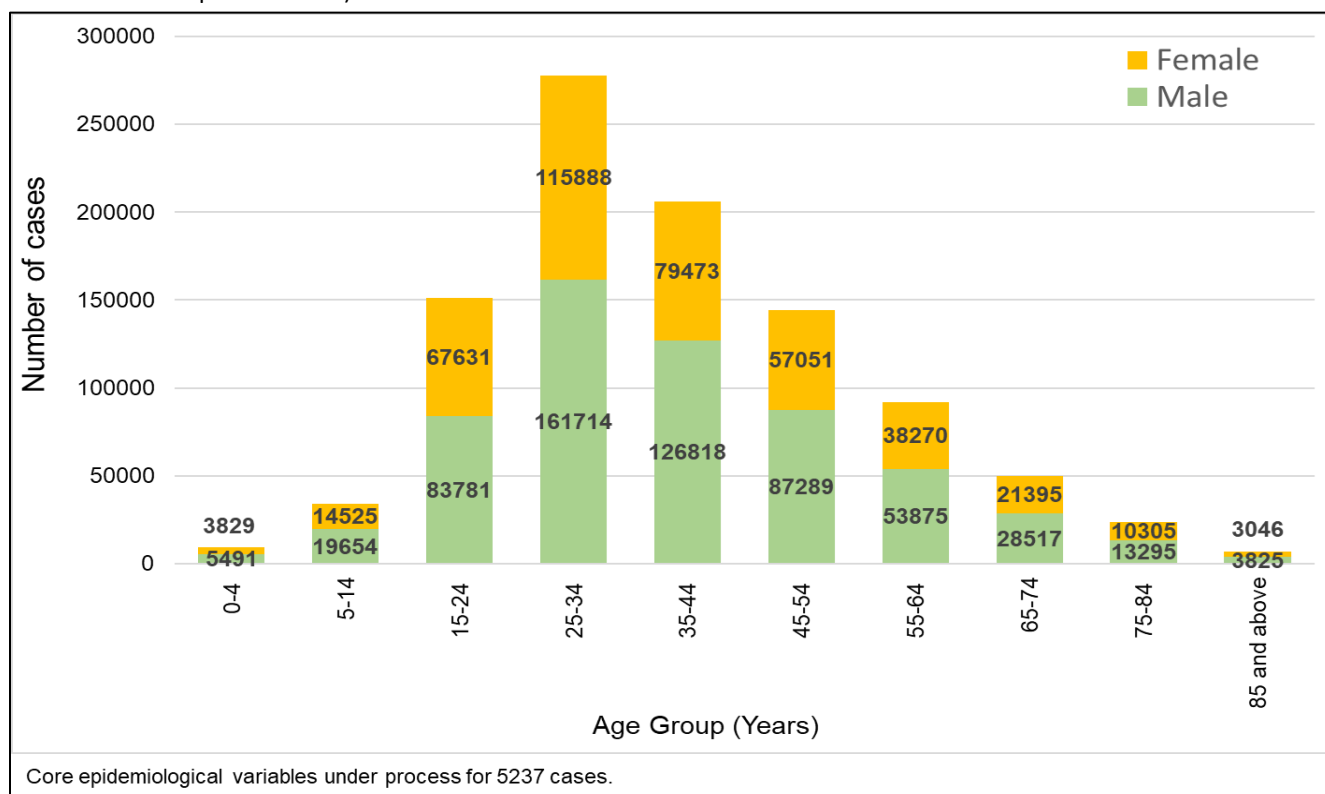
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	129514	30322	159836	14.1	1722	Community transmission	0	7	7	9.7	0
Madhesh	53897	1178	55075	4.9	783	Community transmission	0	0	0	0.0	0
Bagmati	542674	32762	575436	50.9	5202	Community transmission	4	43	47	65.3	0
Gandaki	95365	24668	120033	10.6	1428	Community transmission	1	3	4	5.6	0
Lumbini	110489	28139	138628	12.3	1874	Community transmission	7	2	9	15.3	0
Karnali	24019	6325	30344	2.7	492	Community transmission	0	1	1	1.4	0
Sudurpashchim	44951	6142	51093	4.5	518	Community transmission	0	2	2	2.8	0
National Total	1000909	129536*	1130445	100	12019	Community transmission	12	58	70	100	0

**Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 4 December 152211, IMU reported 129536*

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= 995672)(Data reported on 4 December 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= 1000909)(Data reported on 4 December 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	9320	16	23	13	0.42
5-14	34179	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	151412	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	277602	387	265	151	0.23
35-44	206291	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144340	1396	645	574	1.41
55-64	92145	1690	803	782	2.71
65-74	49912	1640	893	957	5.07
75-84	23600	1228	659	773	8
85+	6871	524	289	279	11.83
Unknown	5237	19	7	11	0.5
National	1000909	7880	4139	3901	1.20

$$\text{Case Fatality ratio (CFR, in\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from disease}}{\text{Number of confirmed cases of disease}} \times 100$$

COVID-19 positive lab result is temporally associated with death; causal association under investigation.

A total of 12,019 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,880 (65.6%) were male and 4,139 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,901 persons (32.5%) had at least one known comorbidity. The age specific case fatality ratio (CFR) progressively increases with age, ranging from 0.06% to 11.8%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- From 3 November 2022 onwards, Government of Nepal has started administering second dose COVID-19 booster vaccination for people aged 55 and above and the vulnerable population (immune-deficiency/chronic patients, pregnant women, and health workers) group.

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 the following activities:
 - A three-day service provider's training on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) organized by the National Health Training Centre (NHTC) conducted at Nobel Hospital in Morang district of Province 1 from 29 November to 25 December 2022. A team of 5 trainers trained 22 participants which included nursing staff and paramedics from 19 hospitals based in the province.
 - WHO attended a meeting with officials from NHTC on 4 December 2022 to discuss the pilot training on ' Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) ' and Training of Trainers (TOT). Furthermore, formation of technical working group (TWG) and core writing group (CWG) for Advanced Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) module were discussed. The pilot training on ARDS is scheduled to begin from 16 December 2022.

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 program:
 - A three-day service provider's training on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) organized by the National Health Training Centre (NHTC) conducted at Nobel Hospital in Morang district of Province 1 from 29 November to 25 December 2022. A team of 5 trainers trained 22 participants which included nursing staff and paramedics from 19 hospitals based in the province.

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. To perform these activities, the team coordinates and discuss with relevant government authorities and partners for effective planning and conducting the various activities.



(Top) ongoing session on IPC day 1 , PC- NHTC/ S Dev; (Down) group photo during the last day of the training. Photo credit: WHO Nepal/S.Adhikari

WHO attended a meeting with officials from NHTC on 4 December 2022 to discuss the pilot training on ' Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) ' and Training of Trainers (TOT). Furthermore, formation of technical working group (TWG) and core writing group (CWG) for Advanced Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) module were discussed. The pilot training on ARDS is scheduled to begin from 16 December 2022.

Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics³.

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.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Episode 82 of *Science in 5 (Older adults and COVID-19 vaccines)* was translated, dubbed, and published via the following links:
 - l. Nepali: Facebook [link](#); OneDrive [link](#); YouTube [link](#); Twitter [link](#)
- The news of Nepal conducting the first round of Joint External Evaluation (JEE), a voluntary exercise to assess Nepal's capacities to prevent, detect, and respond to public health risks was shared via Facebook (link [here](#) and [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#) and [here](#)). JEE helps countries identify the most critical gaps of a multi-sectoral response, and to prioritize areas for action for enhanced preparedness and response.
- The new episode of *Paanch Maa Bigyaan*, on the future of health was shared via SoundCloud (link [here](#)), Facebook (link [here](#)), and Twitter (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)).
- On the occasion of *International Day of Persons with Disabilities*, a statement video from WHO Representative to Nepal was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)). The video highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic has further disadvantaged and increased vulnerability for many persons with disabilities and emphasized WHO's commitment to support Nepal as it works toward ensuring persons with disabilities can attain their highest possible standard of health.
- On the occasion of *16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence*, relevant IEC materials were shared which highlighted the support that can be provided by health systems, healthcare workers, and governments during emergencies to protect women and their children from violence.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - Monkeypox,
 - 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
 - *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*.
- Continued support to MoHP for the weekly national briefing. The key information included in the briefing of 30 November 2022 are: COVID-19 updates, dengue situation in Nepal, significance of public health and social measures and COVID-19 booster vaccine, promotion of dengue search and destroy campaign. In addition, the briefing included messages about World AIDS Day 2022, 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, update on Nepal conducting JEE, National Joint Annual Review Program 2022, and information on the changed schedule for polio vaccination in routine immunization. The briefing is broadcasted live on every Wednesday at 4:15 PM via Nepal Television, and streamed via MoHP and WHO Facebook pages.

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- Continued routine work from the team of Partner Coordination and Donor Relation⁴

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.

- 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.
- COVID-19 consultation is being provided continuously by specialist teams through tele-medicine services.

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](#)
- 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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