Statement by UNHCR Nepal at the Seventy-fourth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia:

UNHCR congratulates the Government of Nepal, the Ministry of Health and Population Nepal, WHO Nepal and WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia on the 74th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia.

UNHCR Nepal would like to thank the Government of Nepal for its longstanding tradition of generosity towards refugees in the area of health. In the context of Covid19, UNHCR Nepal has been working in close cooperation with WHO Nepal and the Government of Nepal at the federal, provincial, and local levels for the inclusion of refugees in the country’s Covid19-preparedness and response plans.

The Government of Nepal’s decision to include refugees in its Covid19 response and vaccination rollout has been exemplary and an inspiration for many.

I also wish to thank WHO Nepal and its Representative Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav for the strong partnership with UNHCR in advocating for the health of refugees and other vulnerable populations.

We take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of civil registration and vital statistics for all residents, including documentation and a hundred per cent complete birth registration coverage. Both are crucial to ensure formal, long term and reliable access to public health and other public services for all residents - children and adults - especially the most marginalized amongst us.

Thank you for the invitation to UNHCR to be a part of this very important and respected forum.

Carolin Spannuth Verma
UNHCR Representative Nepal
spannuth@unhcr.org
27 August 2021