2021 South Asia COVID-19 Outbreak: India and Nepal
Situation Report #7

29 July 2021

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- While COVID-19 cases have been declining in India and Nepal, health infrastructure has been overwhelmed, exposing a need for strengthening of healthcare systems and capacity building in preparation for a potential third wave and continued COVID related healthcare needs.
- 450,706,257 vaccine doses have been administered in India, fully vaccinating 7.18% of the population.
- 5,047,355 vaccine doses have been administered in Nepal fully vaccinating 5.25% of the population
- Project HOPE and partners have procured and distributed 173 oxygen concentrators; 11,200 oxygen masks; 528,000 units of PPE; 2,555 pulse oximeters; among other supplies such as ventilators and masks in the capital of Delhi plus 5 Indian states: Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha.
- Project HOPE is working with Society for All Round Development (SARD) to equip a hospital ICU unit in New Delhi in preparation for a potential third wave of COVID-19.
- Project HOPE has landed a large airlift shipment in Nepal containing 95 pallets of medical supplies and PPE and weighing nearly 21,000kg.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

India
India has recorded an average of 43,509 cases per day of COVID-19 in the past week, with a 5% lower case average than the average two weeks prior. Deaths have also decreased by 51%. While rates of cases have been slowing the country is taking strides to increase vaccination efforts, with only 7.18% of the population fully vaccinated, while strengthening healthcare capacity in preparation for a potential third wave due to the COVID-19 variant strains.
India surpassed 31.5 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 this week amidst a slowing surge of infections. In the past month, authorities confirmed declining rates of COVID-19, however pressure has remained on the healthcare system for supplies and capacity for a potential third wave. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) warns of this 3rd wave being both inevitable and imminent, thus alerting state governments against allowing large gathering events. Vaccine supplies have also seen inconsistencies; however the government has reported that India will meet its target of supplying over half a billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to states by the end of July, however not all doses will be administered by that date.

**Nepal**

According to the Ministry of Health (MOH), there have been 9,791 COVID fatalities in Nepal. Barriers to accessing vaccines mean that only 5.25% of the population in Nepal is fully vaccinated. While infection rates had been dropping, the past week recorded an increased rate of infections. As the potential of a third wave closes in there is an increased importance for strengthening healthcare capacity in supplies, infrastructure, and training.

The COVID-19 situation in India has also greatly affected the medical supply chain in Nepal, as the country has struggled to meet the needs presented from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Vaccination efforts have been faced with many barriers, particularly to access of vaccines. Nepal has also been going through political transitions, as a new Prime Minister and state Minister for Health were appointed on July 25.

**PROJECT HOPE’S RESPONSE**

In India, Project HOPE’s team has continued to work with local partners ChildFund India, March of Youth for Health, MY-HEART, SARD, government officials and other local partners.

ChildFund India (CFI) procured and distributed medical equipment, such as oxygen concentrators, oxygen masks, pulse oximeters, and monitors. CFI is now working across 75 slums in the cities of Bangalore, Mangalore, Mysore, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad and Vijayawada with vaccination awareness drives, vaccine registration, pediatric COVID-care centers, and training of healthcare workers. Distribution of medical equipment and supplies to pediatric COVID-care centers is ongoing and scheduled to complete this week. CFI’s community interventions have been successful, spreading COVID-19 behavior awareness and vaccine information. CFI is continuing to support the government in both pediatric COVID-19 surveillance and vaccine rollout.

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1 Third India Covid wave ‘imminent’ | Phnom Penh Post
SARD has continued to work in urban South Delhi with the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) to equip the ICU in the new ISIC hospital in Tilak Nigar. The list of needed equipment for procurement is nearing completion and should be fully equipped by 31 August. SARD is also training doctors, with the first round completed and the second round currently underway.

MY-HEART is working to procure and distribute medical equipment, as well focusing on community interventions to enhance capacity of frontline healthcare workers, enhance capacity of vaccinators, strengthen community COVID prevention behaviors, and strengthen vaccine messaging and efforts. MY-HEART has completed the second round of equipment distribution in three out of the five districts in Odisha and is currently working to complete all distributions this week. Community interventions are being completed in the districts of Khordha, Cuttack, Puri and Jagatsinghpur in Odisha.

MY-HEART and SARD have been also begun COVID awareness van campaigns to spread messages on COVID prevention and vaccination information, which is anticipated to have an indirect reach of 2,000,000 people. This campaign will help to encourage children, youth & the community at large on COVID-19 appropriate behavior. The SARD team will be using a dedicated app to be able to track beneficiaries as well as the reach of the Canter vehicle and the mass awareness campaign route for feedback as well. The SARD Canter campaign launched from the headquarters of SDMC and travels through different slums between 10am and 5pm every day, spreading COVID-appropriate behavior awareness and vaccine information. In the first week, 406 gift bags of hand sanitizer and masks were distributed to adults and children in the slums.

COVID-19 healthcare facilities were designed for adult patients and lack many features needed for pediatric patients’ wellbeing. An initiative by Project HOPE and ChildFund India is working to rapidly update existing healthcare facilities with child-friendly clinical spaces to accommodate the youngest patients and their families. This is being combined with specific distributions of pediatric supplies and training on pediatric treatment of COVID-19.
In Nepal, Project HOPE is continuing to work with local NGO Pratiman-Neema Memorial Foundation (PNMF). PNMF and HOPE worked with the Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Finance, and the Government of Nepal to airlift large shipments of medical supplies and equipment, such as PPE gowns, masks, KN95 masks, gloves, thermometers, emergency relief beds, and face shields, which arrived in Nepal on July 18. The supplies were transferred to PNMF Warehouse in Amprapali, Bhatbhtehi, and Kathmandu as of July 23. PNMF is working with the Ministry of Health and Population and the Logistics Department to finalize the distribution plan. PNMF is also coordinating with the Ministry of Health and Population to organize a handover ceremony and formal press release with the newly appointed Prime Minister and state Minister for Health. Additionally, PNMF is coordinating with all the seven provinces’ Chief Ministers and the Ministry of Health and Population for the distribution and handover of supplies.

PNMF receives shipment of medical supplies with support from Project HOPE in Nepal.

Project HOPE in partnership with PNMF has also completed the second level of the vaccination training program – an online training program with eight sessions led by seven trainers. In one month, 4,580 medical health professionals from all seven Nepal provinces received this training.

Nyamlka K.C. in Biratnagar, a vaccine trainee said, “Amidst all the misconceptions and misinformation circulating on the internet regarding vaccination, this training session has been an eye-opener. This vaccine session was beneficial and helped me clear my doubts and fear. I am looking forward to more sessions like this and I share my sincere gratitude to the team for organizing such wonderful training.”

Contact Information

Chris Skopec
cskopec@projecthope.org
+1 (202) 602-8393

Tom Cotter
tcotter@projecthope.org
+1 (667) 303-8970