2021 South Asia COVID-19 Outbreak: India and Nepal
Situation Report #8
24 August 2021

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- COVID-19 cases have continued to decline on average the past two weeks in India and Nepal. However, the healthcare system has been overwhelmed throughout the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic in both countries signaling a continued need for strengthening and preparation for a potential third wave of COVID-19, as well as overall healthcare capacity building.
- There have been 588,997,805 vaccine doses administered in India, with 9.52% of the population fully vaccinated, and 8,801,330 doses administered in Nepal leading to 13.48% of the population being fully vaccinated.
- 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 the third wave of COVID-19.
- Project HOPE and PNMF are currently working with the Government of Nepal to distribute a large shipment of medical supplies and equipment to all provinces in Nepal.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

India
India has recorded an average of 35,621 cases per day of COVID-19 in the past week, with a 12% lower case average than the average two weeks prior. Deaths have decreased by 11% in India. As epidemiologists in India have been predicting a third wave of COVID-19, there has been more focus on strengthening vaccination efforts as currently only 9.52% of the population are fully vaccinated. There is a continuation of efforts to

Quick Facts

- India has seen a total of 32,474,773 COVID-19 cases.
- Over 9% (69,964) of the total 748,981 cases in Nepal were in the past month.
- Nepal is seeing a decline in daily cases from a record high of 9,317 on May 11 to 1,548 today.
- India population has reached 9.5% fully vaccinated
- Project HOPE has been working with local partners to mobilize procurements and shipments of critical medical supplies to the hardest hit regions, as well as to build healthcare capacity moving forward.
strengthen healthcare capacity in preparation for a potential third wave of COVID-19 as a rise in weekly cases during the last week of July was observed for the first time since May. While case rates have declined in August, further preparation is needed. There is maintained pressure on the healthcare system in India for supplies and capacity building for the potential third wave. Although vaccine supplies have seen inconsistencies, the government has projected that India will produce over 260 million vaccine doses between Covaxin and Covishield in the month of August.

**Nepal**

According to the Ministry of Health (MOH), there have been 10,429 COVID fatalities in Nepal. While there have been ongoing vaccination efforts for vaccination in Nepal, there have also been many barriers to vaccine access, leading to only 13.48% of the population being fully vaccinated. As the potential of a third wave closes in there is an increased importance for strengthening healthcare capacity in supplies, infrastructure, and training.

The medical supply chain in Nepal has been greatly affected by the COVID-19 situation in India, as the country has struggled to meet the needs presented from the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccination efforts have met with many barriers, particularly regarding access to vaccines. Adding to the difficulties, is a recent political shifts, with a recent appointment of new Prime Minister.

**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 has completed the first and second phases of their programming, including procurement and distribution of medical equipment, such as oxygen concentrators, oxygen masks, pulse oximeters, monitors, and so forth. ChildFund India is continuing the third phase of intervention working across 75 slums in the cities of Bangalore, Mangalore, Mysore, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad and Vijayawada with vaccination awareness drives, pediatric COVID-care centers, and training healthcare workers. Distribution of medical equipment and supplies to pediatric COVID-care centers is completed, and their community interventions have been successful in spreading COVID-19 behavior awareness and vaccine information. Through discussions with the government, additional hospitals in Tamil Nadu will be adopting the model of child friendly COVID-19 care centers implemented by CFI by December 2021.

SARD has continued to work in urban South Delhi with the South Delhi Municipal Corporation to equip the ICU in the new ISIC hospital in Tilak Nagar. The ICU in this hospital is on track to be
equipped by the end of August. The first round of doctors trainings is completed and the second round is currently underway.

SARD is continuing their COVID awareness canter campaign to spread messages on COVID prevention and vaccination information. This campaign works to encourage children, youth & the community at large on COVID-19 appropriate behavior. The SARD team is using a dedicated app to track beneficiaries, and the Canter as well as the mass awareness campaign for feedback. Recent feedback revealed that of 74 responders, 100% replied they planned to get vaccinated.

MY-HEART completed procurement and distribution of medical equipment in Odisha. Community interventions in the state of Odisha have continued aimed at enhancing the capacity of frontline healthcare workers and vaccinators, strengthening community COVID-19 prevention behaviors as well as vaccine efforts. MY-HEART’s campaign has accomplished: 2,063 villages reached; 174,170 face masks distributed; 104 community meetings organized with 4,408 people in attendance. The corona awareness vans covered Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Khordha, and Puri districts. Training materials for frontline workers in these districts were developed in partnership with training experts from the Government of Odisha. Once finalized, the materials will be distributed and training will begin next week. Procurements and distributions of medical equipment has also been completed in Odisha.
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 a large shipment of medical supplies and equipment, such as PPE gowns, masks, KN95 masks, globes, thermometers, emergency relief beds, and face shields. The shipment was received in Nepal on July 18th. The distribution plan was finalized and large shipments were dispatched to all of the provinces on August 12-13. All the medical supplies and equipment were received by all provinces last week.

The PNMF team also completed distribution of medical supplies and equipment in the Lumbini province in partnership with Project HOPE. The PNMF team completed distribution and handover in Rapti Provincial Hospital of Dang District, Bardia Hospital of Bardia District, Bheri Hospital of Nepalgunj District, East Rukum Hospital in Rukum District.

Project HOPE in partnership with PNMF has also completed the second level of the vaccination training program. The online training program with eight total sessions was led by seven trainers. In one month (June 20-July 20) 4,580 medical health professionals from all seven provinces were trained.

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

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