



NEPAL COVID SITREP as at 24 JUN 21

HEADLINES

1. The Foreign and Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) continue to be engaged in identifying Nepal's medical needs. Talks between the FCDO, Ministry of Health Nepal and Ambassador of Nepal UK continue.
2. Army Medical and Advisory Team (MAT) had a successful meeting with the Nepal Army (NA) 2-Star Crisis Management Coordination Centre (CMCC) Commander and the 2-Star DG Medical Services. There was no request submitted for military capability assistance only material.
3. Col Comdt, Deputy Col Comdt and HQBG staff continue to engage at appropriate levels to influence and enable the provision of the best possible support to Govt of Nepal (GoN) and Nepal Army. Deputy Col Comdt (Lord Lancaster of Kimbolton) has once again raised the question of support to Nepal in the [House of Lords](#) (see his statement at 2:01pm) and requested the provision of 2 million vaccines for Nepal.
4. Numerous groups in UK continue to lobby the UK Govt to send vaccines directly to Nepal. National policy remains to deliver through the COVAX initiative. The G7 countries agreed that "bilateral" donations of Covid vaccines, outside the COVAX commitment, were acceptable. [President GBA](#) has written to the Prime Minister asking for the urgent provision of Covid vaccines to the people of Nepal under a "bilateral" agreement between the UK and Nepal. (No Change).
5. Nepal may receive "a share" of the **16M** Covid-19 vaccines given to Asian countries by the US; although it is not currently on the list of recipients. This is part of the **55M** vaccines donated to [COVAX](#) by the US. The UK has committed to providing **2M** Covid-19 vaccines to Nepal through COVAX. (Change).
6. BG personnel have re-started compassionate leave and travel to Nepal. Travel to Nepal for compassionate cases originating in UK are to use the limited number of flights approved by the GoN.

POLITICAL

7. International

- a. The UN Nepal Covid Pandemic [SITREP](#) as at **23 June 21** gives a more detailed report on the situation in various parts of Nepal. Procurement of vaccines remains a critical gap and top priority. (Change).
- b. World Health Organisation (WHO) [COVAX](#), co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations ([CEPI](#)), Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation ([GAVI](#)) and WHO are operating in Nepal in order to identify the priority needs and the response required. COVAX distributed [348K vaccines on 7 Mar 21](#). Details of when the balance (1,572K) of the 1.92M vaccines allocated to Nepal will be delivered has yet to be promulgated. China [donated 800K](#) vaccines to Nepal in Apr 21.

c. International organisations operating in Nepal are liaising with the GoN about the repatriation of their non-essential staff.

8. Nepal

a. The Nepali PM on 4 Jun 21 during a [BBC interview](#) called on the UK to provide Covid vaccine either directly or through Gavi's Covax facility as cases surge. The [Kathmandu Post](#) questions why countries are failing to respond to Nepal's request for help. Nepal has confirmed that the purchase of 4M "Vero Cell" vaccines from China which is due to be delivered Sep 21. China is not happy with GoN's public announcement of the sale. Plans have been put in place for a new vaccination drive from mid-Jul 21. (Change).

b. On **23 Jun 21**, GoN has approved a number of weekly international flights to countries where Nepalis travel to/from as migrant workers i.e. Delhi, Doha, Istanbul, Dubai, Damman, Mustca, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul, Tokyo, Chengdu and Guangzhou. The flights (restricted to 50% capacity only) are expected to commence on **1 Jul 21** subject to airline agreement. All other international flights remain suspended until. (Change).

c. **All domestic flights resumed from 23 Jun 21.** (Change)

d. The GoN has given rights to each local government to impose a lockdown or take any other additional measures if COVID cases reach certain limits. Lockdown in Kathmandu Valley has been relaxed, but extended until **29 Jun 21** and other areas are following the capitals lead. (Change).

e. Gradual relaxations are being introduced with private vehicles and taxis are allowed on the roads on an odd-even day basis. Vehicles carrying "essential supplies" are allowed on the road at anytime. Shops have been allowed to open 3 days a week and food delivery service is being permitted. (Change).

f. MedCiti Hospital in Kathmandu is now reporting availability of COVID beds, critical and non-critical wards. Occupancy is still over 90%, but this is a significant change from 5 June 21. The situation in rural areas is reported to be deteriorating.

g. The demand for oxygen remains high, but the supply is improving, and hospitals are coping. Case numbers have fallen, but the existing figures remain high and there is a possibility that rising demands for bed space may again result in closure. Treatment of non-COVID patients is not assured, but confidence is returning, and more patients are being seen.

h. COVID stats as at 22 Jun 21 (provided by BGN).

Nepal COVID Statistics	Total Numbers (Previous Report Figs – 22 Jun 21)	
Total cases (x)	636,343	(621,056)
Total recovered (y)	564,882	(556,798)
Active (x-y)	71,461	(64,258)
No of tests conducted	16,913	(10,926)
Recovery rate	90.2	(89.6%)
Total death	8813	(8,726)
National daily reported cases	4,522	(2,442)

9. UK

a. Pressure brought by several Lords for a special effort for Nepal, notably from Lord Sheikh and the Earl of Sandwich, both sit on the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Nepal.

b. UK Aid essential medical supplies arrived in Nepal. UK Ambassador to Nepal (Ms Nicola Pollitt) met the aircraft at Kathmandu airport. She was also interviewed by [Khabarhub](#).

c. Change Org petition to Foreign Secretary launched with lots of high profile signatories: Joanna Lumley, Michael Palin, scientists, academics, Everest climbers, Gurkha veterans, including Capt Rambahadur Limbu VC, two former Col Comdts – Petition - Send Oxygen to Nepal. The petition has been rejected by the Govt because of the similar petition "Provide Emergency Support to Treat COVID Patients in Nepal" had been submitted earlier. A further petition "UK should share Covid vaccine with Nepal" has been started by Co-Chair of Britain Nepal Medical Trust (BNMT).

d. Co-Chair BNMT and Chairman Britain Nepal Society (BNS) are both engaged in lobbying the UK Govt for vaccines to be sent to Nepal. Co-Chair BNMT has written to the Prime Minister asking for Covid vaccines to be sent to Nepal as a matter of urgency.

10. **FCDO.**

a. Recovery of non-essential staff and dependents to UK, using the medical supplies aircraft has been accomplished. Core staff will remain in place to continue developmental work.

b. FCDO are reassessing the humanitarian situation and further support options.

c. An FCDO Medical panel will sit on 24 Jun to consider the situation in Nepal to inform the recommendations on military to military equipment support to Nepal to the SoS. ([Change](#))

11. **MOD/Army.**

a. Col Comdt, Dep Col Comdt and HQBG staff engaging at appropriate levels.

b. Ongoing planning in MOD:

(1) Medical equipment reached Nepal on 28 May 21.

(2) MOD staff are reviewing options to provide wider support to Nepal in line with FCDO intent.

(3) Meeting on 28 May discussed what else UK and MoD can do to support Nepal. The revised NA wish list (including vaccines) has been received which will inform the preparation of a Ministerial Submission.

(4) MAT discussions with the NA on 7 Jun included a revision of the 'Wish List from the UK'. The NA's priorities remain as:

(a) Supply of vaccines.

(b) Assistance in Testing and equipment.

(c) Critical Care Management and equipment.

(d) Paediatric care support and equipment for a possible 3rd wave.

(e) Experience Sharing.

(5) The MAT's Mission and Tasks have been submitted to Director General Military Intelligence (DGMI) for endorsement. In the meantime, they are conducting their "Understand" phase in order to draft their Concept of Operations (CONOPS).

(6) All non-essential and at-risk service personnel/dependants have returned to the UK, bar a few who were in quarantine and unable to travel. Total c115 pax (including some of those on leave) have now arrived in UK.

(7) HQBG facilitated the move of BGN personnel and families repatriated to the UK from their quarantine accommodation to Family Accommodation (SFA) in Larkhill. All families completed the move on 9 Jun 21.



Major Mani Rai MBE, DL

Brigade Secretary | Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas

Tel (Skype) 03001650582|Email: mani.rai121@mod.gov.uk