

PHASE Nepal's Continued Community Work during Covid-19 Crisis

-An Update-

Since the beginning of the year 2020 we, as the whole global community, have been struggling through the COVID-19 pandemic. In Nepal as well, the virus has added further stress on the social and economic needs of the people. Nepal was in strict lockdown from the reporting of the second COVID case in March until July. After July, due to the socio-economic crisis created by the COVID lockdown, the modality of the restrictions was changed from partial to prohibitory lockdown orders according to the local situations.

PHASE Nepal is an organization that works in those areas of Nepal where fulfilling basic needs is a daily struggle due to the geographical and climatic conditions. In such harsh places, we have continued to reach communities with the most essential services like

- Health
- Livelihood
- Education and
- Emergency relief

In such challenging geographical regions, with immense effort of our PHASE frontline staff we have continued to serve people even during the COVID pandemic. In places where we work, the people are going through additional deprivations due to the COVID situation - struggling for essential health, livelihood needs and other basic requirements.

Our health teams in remote locations continued with the essential and emergency services for women, children and elderly people. For many people living in such challenging areas, the PHASE health teams are the only point for emergency health services. During this time our health teams have successfully saved the lives of mothers and children with complicated cases like eclampsia, breech deliveries, retained placenta, twin deliveries, delivery with second degree uterine prolapse, case of hepatitis B positive with delivery, excessive bleeding, severe pneumonia etc. With their support the immunization and supplement programmes for young children have also been smoothly conducted in the pandemic situations.

Furthermore, PHASE health teams have actively contributed in the orientation on COVID precaution measures and COVID scanning in returning migrants in Mugu,

Humla and Bajura. They also worked with community frontline health workers like Female Community Health Volunteers and Traditional healers who will further support to spread COVID precaution measures in the communities.

Fulfilling the basic livelihood needs in most of the areas where we work is a daily struggle. A recent study has shown that the current food insecurity status, measured as a combination of poor food consumption and poor dietary diversity, was more common in - Sudurpaschim province (Far Western), and Karnali province. These are the regions where PHASE technical officers have continued to reach with improved techniques and advice on improving the production of green vegetables, food products and animal husbandry. PHASE teams in the field have been working with people who have lost their jobs due to lockdowns and months of travel restriction, with livelihood training and orientations and market support.

With the COVID lockdown, most of the essential services have been hampered and the educational sector in Nepal has been hit hard. All the educational institutions are still closed since March 2020 which is for more than half of the academic session, in this situation our education team have been working with School management committees and the Parents- teacher's committees to support children in a learning-at-home environment. Also the emergency relief team in Kathmandu, have been providing emergency relief food items, medicinal support to the most vulnerable people living with disabilities in Lalitpur and Gorkha.

As of Nov 4, 2020 according to the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in Nepal, 182,923 **tested COVID 19 positive in Nepal**, with 1034 deaths. Most of the COVID specialised hospitals are at full capacity and the MoHP has estimated that there will be an additional 320,000 cases in the next four months.

While reaching the most vulnerable communities with basic and essential services even with the strict precaution measures, some of PHASE's frontline workers - logistics staff, field health team (Health supervisors and ANMs, transport team, field livelihood technical team) - have tested positive with the virus. With the essential members of the PHASE team being tested positive and the government stopping free testing and treatment of the COVID victims we need your support.

Our frontline staff need your support in order to continue essential and emergency services in the most remote areas of Nepal to beat the pandemic situation. This effort will support us to meet the current safety concerns for our team members and help us continue providing essential services for families and communities. This

will also support emergency treatment in case of actual covid-19 infection and symptomatic complications.

Please support us to help our team members protect and prepare them to keep fighting in the global pandemic situation.

Glimpses of PHASE Nepal's Project Activity During the Covid.



Support in Swab Collection, Humla



Immunization Services Gorkha



Community Awareness Raising, Gorkha



Covid-19 Awareness Training to Female Community Health Workers, Gorkha



ANC services.



Locally Made, Plastic PPEs work by PHASE health staff at Covid Health Desk, Mugu



Dispensing medicine from safe distance, Bajura



Makeshift Covid Health desk, Mugu



Testing covid symptoms, Bajura







Child Delivery and postnatal services, Gorkha



Nutrition status checks, Gorkha



Community Awareness with Mother Groups, Mugu



PHASE Post Natal Care