

April 2022

## Project Report: Face Shield Support to Nepal

Supporting Health Institutions of Nepal with Face Shields for Their Fight against Covid



Submitted to: **GlobalMedic, Canada**

Submitted by: **Volunteer Corps Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal**

## **From the President**

I am pleased to share with that our project “Face Shield Support to Nepal” has been successfully accomplished. For the success of this project, GlobalMedic’s contribution was the core assistance for which Volunteer Corps Nepal (VCN) wants to express an immense gratitude on the behalf of our entire team and the targeted beneficiaries of the project. There are many reasons for which we are thankful to you, and one of them is support like this motivate us to continue our mission. We are proud to announce that the support of yours will help health workers of Nepal fight against Covid and maintain the health of people.

The medical institutions and individuals thanked GlobalMedic, Muslim Aid and VCN for this support of Face Shield. “Face Shield is one of the important part of our personal Protective Equipment. Previously there was shortage of protective gears and other materials for health workers to freely take care the Covid patients. This will aid us in strengthening our protection in the hospital,” said Dr. Nigam Paudel in Central Ayurveda Hospital.

Because of your donation, health workers of 20 health centers will now have access to protective gauge to treat the patients with minimized risk of transmission of infection. 20 health centers from 9 districts and 4 provinces have benefitted from this project.

Thank you once again for your generous support and we look forward to continuing our partnership to serve more people in need.

With all our gratefulness,  
Deepak Chapagain,  
President, Volunteer Corps Nepal

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Face Shield Support to Nepal

**DONOR:** GlobalMedic

**TARGET AREA:** 9 districts from 4 Provinces in Nepal; Province 1 (Khotang District), Province 2 (Dhanusha, Saptari and Sarlahi districts), Bagmati Province (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Ramechhap and Sindhupalchowk districts), and Lumbini Province (Rupandehi district).

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:** Volunteer Corps Nepal

**DISTRIBUTION PERIOD:** 6 Months (1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022)

**TOTAL BENEFICIARIES:** 4 Provinces / 20 Health Centers

**In- Kind Support:** 9550 Face Shields

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The announcement of starting second wave of COVID-19 in Nepal brought panic in general people as well as the authorities. Lack of proper preparation for the expected second wave caused chaos, and rapidly increasing cases with more than 45% positivity rate by the new variant of Corona virus soon caused the shortage of essential medical equipment and supplies in health facilities. Death cases skyrocketed with more than 250 deaths per day in the month of May and this was projected to continue for some months. Shortage of oxygen for life support, equipment like oximeters and thermometers to check the vitals of patients, as well as the reduced access to protective gears and basic need like water to health workers was making the situation worse. Thus, to help to pacify the condition as much as possible GlobalMedic and Muslim Aid donated Face Shields to fight against Covid in Nepal, after which Volunteer Corps Nepal (VCN) implemented Face Shields Distribution to different health facilities in Nepal.

In total 9,550 face shields were donated by GlobalMedic. The distribution was started immediately after receiving the pallets. The shipment was received on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Project targeted twenty government health institutions from four different provinces (Province 1, Province 2, Bagmati and Lumbini) and nine districts (Khotang, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Ramechhap, Sindhupalchowk, Dhanusha, Saptari, Sarlahi and Rupandehi). The distribution of medical supplies started on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 and completed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Face Shields were provided to the hospitals based on their needs and resources available with us.

## Project Background

On 31 December 2019, Wuhan city in China reported cases of pneumonia of unknown origin, which was later confirmed to be caused by a new coronavirus now known as SARS-CoV-2. The disease it causes is called COVID-19. COVID-19 continues to spread within Asia and Pacific and around the world. The first ever case of COVID-19 was detected on January 23, 2020, in Nepal and started to decline only in November 2020. There was an average of 200-300 cases per day in December 2020 which indicated the end of COVID outbreak in Nepal. However, this did not happen and a huge spike in cases were recorded during April 2021, and the new and more infective U.K. strain B.1.1.7 was detected then. It marked the start of second wave of COVID-19 in Nepal and cases were appearing in 4 digits' number since 18 April 2021. Nepal has recorded 978,665 confirmed cases of COVID-19 till 18 April 2022 and 11,951 people have already succumbed to this deadly virus. There are 375 active cases currently in Nepal. The threat of another wave of COVID is still impending as cases are surging in the neighboring countries.

Hospitals were inundated with patients requiring intensive care and ventilators and strangled with the requests for beds and oxygen, but it was getting hard for them to handle. They were even returning the patients back due to the shortage of oxygen. Most of the hospitals in Nepal were in serious lack of oxygen for the admitted patients and they turned down to take a patient in though there were empty beds. Health centers had reported shortages of PPEs, oxygen supplies, ICU equipment, and ventilators as well as the lack of manpower is aggravating the situation. Young people were also critical this time unlike the first wave. Patients had to sleep on the floors and corridors due to the overwhelming condition.

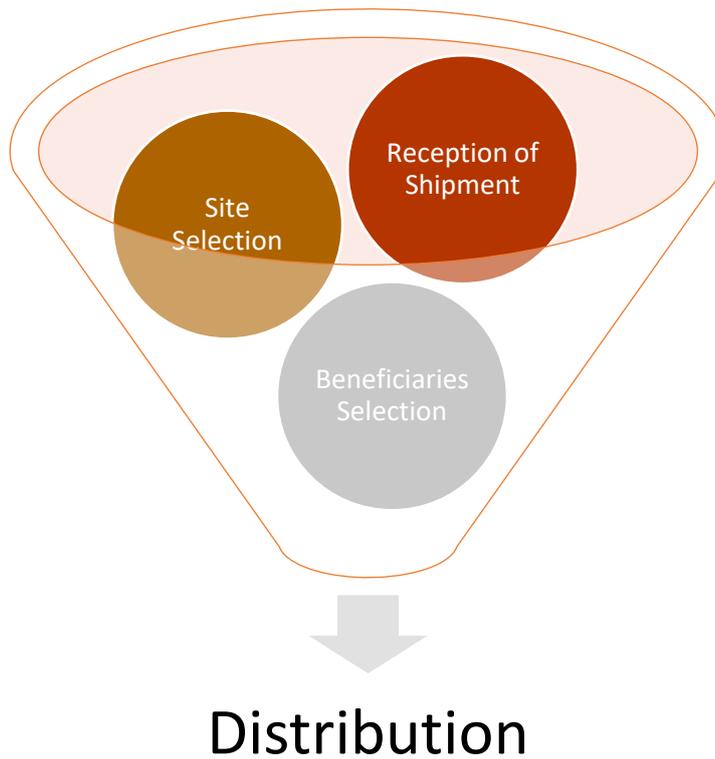
To aid Nepal in her fight against COVID-19, GlobalMedic decided to provide In-Kind support by donating one of the major protective equipment: Face Shields.

Volunteer Corps Nepal and GlobalMedic stood in solidarity with health system of Nepal, by supporting the health centers with Face Shields. 20 government health facilities from 4 provinces and 9 different districts were identified for the project.

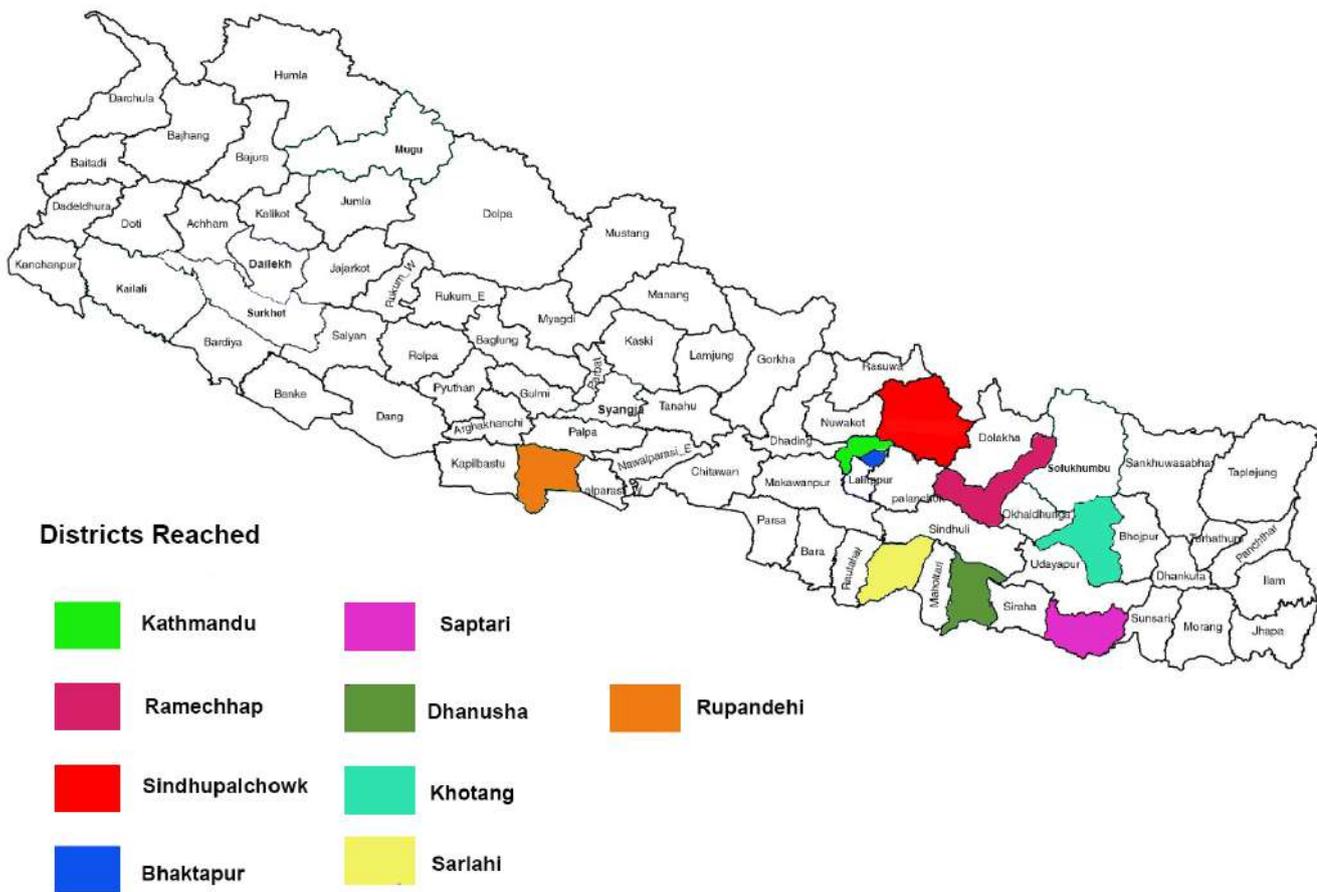
## Project Goal

The project was implemented with a goal of contributing to the reduction of morbidity due to the 2019-nCoV second-wave outbreak by preventing or slowing transmission through the distribution of Face Shields to the health facilities in Nepal.

## Project Implementation Phase



# 1. Project Site Selection



Nine districts as indicated in the map from 4 different provinces were selected and 20 health centers from these districts were provided with the face shields.

## 2. Reception of the Shipment

The pallets of face shields were received on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

## 3. Beneficiaries Selection

While coordinating with Ministry of Health and Population for the implementation of the project, we had received the list of government health facilities requiring the medical aids to enhance their functioning. Health facilities were then contacted and based on that discussion 20 health facilities across the country were selected. It was because we felt the higher need of support for these. Rather than concentrating the project in a province or a region, a decision was made to spread out our provision of support to gain maximum beneficiaries. This made us select 20 health facilities from 9 different districts and 4 different provinces. The selected provinces, districts and health facilities are noted below:

<b>Provinces</b>	<b>Districts</b>	<b>Health Facilities</b>
Province 1	Khotang	Karthamache Health Post Fedi Health Post Matachol Health Post Likuwa Health Post Bopung Health Post Bakluka Health Post
<b>Province 2</b>	Dhanusha Saptari Sarlahi	Janakpur Provincial Hospital Bhardaha Corona Hospital Barathahawa Isolation Center (Barathahawa Hospital)
<b>Bagmati Province</b>	Kathmandu	Bir Hospital Kirtipur Ayurveda Hospital Central Ayurveda Hospital Chandragiri Municipality Primary-Hospital
	Bhaktapur	Bhaktapur Hospital Khwopa Hospital Siddhi Memorial Women and Children-Hospital
	Ramechhap	Ramechhap District Hospital
	Sindhupalchowk	Ruth Weirich Community Health Post Barhabise Primary Health Care Centre
<b>Lumbini Province</b>	Rupandehi	Lumbini Provincial Hospital

#### **4. Distribution Mechanism**

A need-based distribution mechanism was adopted when supplying medical equipment and support to health centers in all the 20 health facilities in 9 districts. A team was formed to carry out all the procedures related to distribution of medical support. Implementation was carried out as planned priorly and the dates were also followed according to the schedule. The recipients of the support were government hospitals which are dedicated in providing quality health services to people in an affordable, and accessible manner. Additionally, they were specially entitled as COVID special hospitals and community hospitals by the government of Nepal.

##### **a. Composition of Face Shield Packages**

Each box of face shield contained 50 face shields and in total 191 boxes were received. Every health facilities were provided with 10 boxes of face shields which is 500 face shields for each, except for two: Barhabise Primary Health Care Center and Ruth Weirich Community Health Posts were provided with 2 and a half boxes of the face shields each, which is 275 face shields at each health center. The quantity of face shields were provided to each health center according to their needs and the resources available.

## **b. Coordination**

Coordination was the main component of this project as the process made it easy for us to meet our target. At the first instance we coordinated with Ministry of Health and Population, Provincial governments and health directorate played a major role to let us act in the provinces. Most of the distributions to primary hospitals were carried out in the presence of leader of local government such as Ward Chairpersons and Mayors. The coordination with hospitals, health workers and their administrative units resulted into every hospital's cordial reception of our initiative to support them.

## **c. Visibility**

Each package of the medical supplies was displayed with the logo of both the donor and partner for the visibility. Banner portraying our project was demonstrated during every distribution.

## **d. Distribution**

The second wave of COVID-19 had already stirred the situation of Nepal. During this time of face shield distribution, the precaution measure for looming new waves of the pandemic was being taken. Thus, our distribution of this protective equipment aided the health centers for stronger preparation against Covid.

We started distributing the face shields from province 3. Health centers in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Ramechhap and Sindhupalchowk were covered first, we then moved to province 1 to reach health centers in Khotang district, from where we moved to province 2 to cover Dhanusha, Sarlahi and Saptari and our last terminus was province 5, Lumbini, where we covered health center in Rupandehi district.

## **Learnings**

Preparedness for the crisis is critical for rapid alleviation and mitigation of impacts and aftereffects. Rather than being a single sectorial action, it is a continuous and integrated process emerging from a wide range of risk reduction activities and resources. The Novel Corona Virus pandemic was an unexpected crisis that occurred throughout the world.

One of the notable lessons learned from this project is the importance of community engagement. The importance of proactive community engagement to build trust in the public health responses, and the effective communication of health messages was a key lesson learned.

Another important lesson learned is that existing networks and partnerships are pivotal in

supporting local humanitarian action. VCN does have its own network of volunteers acting on the ground during the crisis. But what we have realized that our network of volunteers needs to be extended to most of the districts in Nepal, for smooth execution of relief project to a larger target area. At the moment our volunteers are concentrated in the disaster-prone areas in Nepal. Nonetheless this pandemic has shed the light upon the need of series of training and workshops to expand our network of volunteers.

Additionally, we must take time to build capacity, partnership, and preparedness. Partnerships need to be built before disaster occurs. A good partnership with district authorities, community development organizations and people need to be established for a better response to the crisis. Investing in preparedness will save a lot of resources.

Also, using digital technology to make the organization more effective. But this will also require broad acceptance and willingness to learn. We should be moving along the society which is going through a digital transformation.

## Challenges

Carrying out a project amid a pandemic, when the country has stopped functioning normally was a challenging task to do. There lied different hurdles through which we implemented the project successfully. Some of the major challenges we faced are pointed below:

**a. Complicated process of receiving the shipment:** The Government of Nepal has always been coordinating and supporting the causes of the humanitarian aid agency like us. However, the process of taking permission to take out the shipment for distribution was lengthy, even in the time of necessity like Covid. We successfully managed to get the permission with our deliberate efforts.

**b. Fluctuating guidance and restrictions:** Policies aimed at flattening the Corona virus curve had affected mobility, materials, and availability, and are expected to continue to do so even as they become less restrictive. It also has greatly compromised human capital through travel restrictions from government restriction and mandatory distancing, posing numerous obstacles to carry out the logistics.

## **Voices of Beneficiaries**

### **i. Vice Chancellor – Prof. Dr. Dev Narayan Shah- National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), Bir Hospital - Kathmandu**

“This is the period of crisis and every one of us must think in a responsible way to save the lives of people. The aid we have received through you will help us as well as enhance our performance to control the pandemic and treat patients. Your consideration towards health workers and their well-being and towards the hospital is appreciable. Thank you and the donors for the support.” mentioned the Vice Chancellor of the hospital.

### **ii. Mr. Dev Narayan Yadav, Mayor of Barathahawa Municipality - Sarlahi**

“Sarlahi, is one of the most affected districts in Province 2 by COVID-19 and the resources we have are not sufficient to contain the transmission of the infection. This isolation center was also established in the initiation of Volunteer Corps Nepal, and now you’ve arrived with more resources to fight against Covid. I want to personally acknowledge GlobalMedic and Volunteer Corps Nepal for this aid. Thank you for the support.”

### **iii. Community member in Barhabishe Sindhupalchowk**

This feedback was taken from a service user in Ruth Weirich Community Health Post which also received the face shields. His name was Santa Prasad Dulal. He said, “The fear of disease has now multiplied during this second wave than it was during the first wave. And this area faced the first COVID-19 death in 2020. If a person sneezes, we think its Corona and if anyone has slight fever, our fear gets aggravated. I saw you giving the health workers face shields. I have heard this will limit the risk of Covid infection. We used to fear coming for a checkup even when we were ill. Now the confidence has increased due to strong precautions taken by the health workers. The face shields will help them provide services to more people now.

### **iv. Health Director Mr. Vijaya Kumar Jha, Health Directorate Province 2**

“I am grateful to GlobalMedic and Volunteer Corps Nepal for coordinating with us and providing the hospital with protective equipment. The face shields will be useful in protection of our front liners who are contributing 24 hours of their day in saving the patients. New cases have been identified every day and we cannot say that the pandemic is over yet. There are chances of new waves. Thus these types of support is always welcome. Since the first day, I have been continuously working to keep my people safe in a way that government can. I hope we will be coordinating with you in coming days too. Thank you GlobalMedic and Volunteer Corps Nepal for this support.”

# Project Gallery







Thank You!!!