



Nyaya Health Nepal Responding to COVID-19 Second Wave

Nepal was hit by a devastating second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic that surged since May 2021. Compared to the first wave, the second wave showed a much higher transmissibility rate and worsens across the country. Health systems in major cities of the country were overwhelmed with cases. The crisis exposed the pre-existing flaws in the health system where people were left to help themselves, struggling for oxygen, drugs and hospital beds and the hospitals faced resource shortages such as available beds, PPEs, oxygen, Mask and even medical attention as health care workers fell ill themselves. However, as with any crisis, Bayalpata team battled to cope and provide care to the needy people to save the lives in collaboration with Sanfebagar Municipality. The team responded to develop needs such as medical care within hospitals and the community, psychosocial support, as well as, wherever needed and also facilitated post-death services.



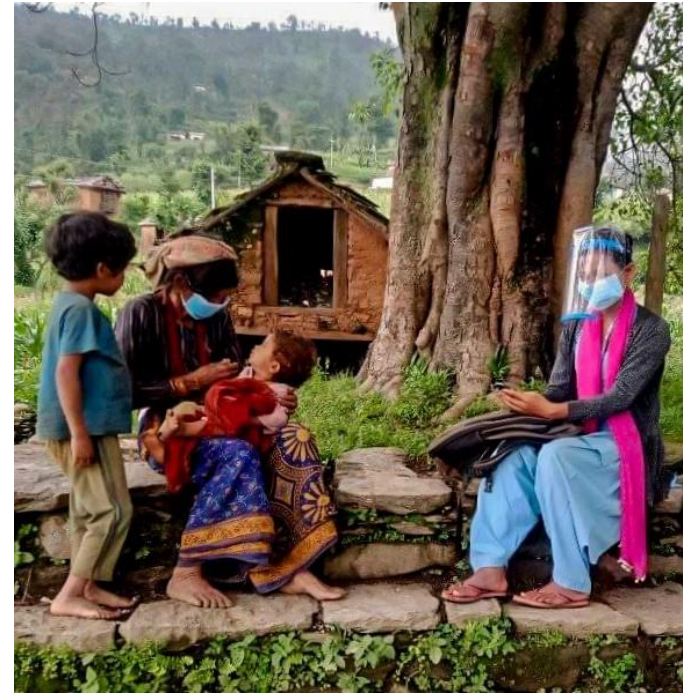
Hospital-Based Care: Nyaya Health Nepal's Bayalpata Hospital team, under the leadership of Dr. Mandeep Pathak, managed to cope with the overwhelming number of COVID-19 cases. The hospital turned a part of its Emergency Room into a COVID ward; dozens of hospital staff were tested positive and isolated. In addition, the hospital continued to treat non-COVID trauma and maternity patients.

Community Health Program: Nyaya Health Nepal has followed and adopted national and international guidelines to continue and strengthen its monitoring of patients before they need hospital treatment. During COVID-19, community health workers (CHWs) provide care to six municipalities in Achham through phone consultations, house calls, and referring them to the hospital if needed. In addition, our community health nurses continue to provide USG and blood test services for pregnant mothers.

NHN's CHWs expressed a strong desire to support their communities, especially the pregnant, new mothers, and under two children, despite of the COVID-19 challenges. CHWs suggested creative ways to adapt to the situation and ensure continued and safe access to the care the pregnant women and mothers needed for ANC, childbirth, childcare, and PNC. As per suggestions from CHWs, the Community health program transitioned from in-person to remote and mobile-based interpersonal counseling from May to June 2021.

At present, with the national record of drop-in COVID-19 cases, fieldwork and home-based care have begun following national and international guidelines. The NHN secured personal protective equipment and rolled out plans to ensure that the staff's safety is not compromised while performing duties in their allocated communities.

According to CHWs, a few consequences of lockdown are unwanted pregnancies and unattained home deliveries, which will burden our health system with complications and mortality. Interventions to maintain safe access to quality MNCH care during emergencies like pandemic is crucial to reduce adverse outcomes for mother and her child.



Digital health care services:

NHN EHR team ASAP worked together with medical team on helping the digitalization of COVID patient's data collection. The clinicians can directly use the observation forms and templates for COVID-19 in the EHR which were designed as per protocol of the Ministry of Health. NepaleHR supports automated report submission of daily COVID data into National HMIS(DHIS2) system helping government to track for COVID response.

NepaleHR team have also worked on implementation of dashboard where one can publicly access the data collected for the COVID-19 from the NepaleHR implemented sites. The data visualization and graphs will be very supportive for the analysis of pandemic situations in the hospital areas. Besides NepaleHR has developed its own mobile application for data access and information related to COVID easier for patients and users.



Data served by Community Health workers during second wave (April 1 to July 15, 2021)

Type of services provided	Total no. of visits/ phone calls	Total no. of individuals approached for counseling	Individual received services
ANC Care	4,744	1,923	1,923
PNC Care	2,373	1,283	1,230
Post Abortion Care	319	193	178
Pregnancy screening	21,195	16,496	12,425
Under 2 Care	15,157	6,028	5,306
Chronic Diseases	4,426	1,736	1,183

Success Stories

Bayalpata Hospital and Emergency care at COVID-19



Bayalpata Hospital converted its emergency ward to COVID temporary ward to manage the increasing pressure of COVID patients. The hospital's COVID response team (CRT) is providing exceptional services to save the life of COVID affected patient despite of limited human resources and medical supplies.

"COVID patient admission flow are increasing in Achham. Our isolation wards were fully occupied by increasing number of patients, to provide equal care to all we converted our emergency ward as a temporary COVID ward." Dr. Biplav Shrestha, Medical Officer

COVID-19 second wave hit and successful amputation surgery at Bayalpata Hospital



Dil Bhul, 47-year-old man from Doti district came to Bayalpata hospital to treat the infection on his leg. He was in a pain and there was discharge all over the leg. At the same time, he also experienced the breathing problem and fever. As per his symptoms, medical team first collected his sample for COVID test and was tested positive. Despite of the challenges life-saving emergency surgery on a COVID positive patient was carried out at Bayalpata Hospital. A holistic evaluation was done by the team for Dil Bhul so that the life-threatening condition was diagnosed, and treated timely.

"It was a very critical case. We were worrying about his leg but didn't expect that he will have COVID infection as well. We didn't think that doctor will do his operation as he was a COVID patient. But had a successful operation by the team for free. We are very grateful to Bayalpata hospital. We received much better care than what we have heard about it. I hope he will recover from COVID, his leg will be fine

and he will be discharge soon." – Dil's Wife

"We did successful operation to Dil who had gangrene of foot due to diabetes and was in sepsis. We performed amputation at makeshift OT and the team used the recommended protective gear and followed all recommended safety precautions despite of COVID." - Medical and Surgical Director, Dr. Mandeep Pathak.