

File form: 0556-39 – Final report for the Eagle Foundation – September 2021

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health workers at IMPACT-supported clinics and hospitals in the Terai region of Nepal; and emergency food parcels for vulnerable families

Date grant accepted: 01/10/20 Funds received 08/10/20

Amount of grant: GBP 18,942

Total number of beneficiaries: Total=22,690 (1,980 people received emergency food and 20,710 patients benefited from safer health services)

Summary

As reported in April 2021, £6,400 of this grant was used to provide emergency assistance to 330 families at risk from malnutrition as a result of the pandemic in Rautahat, Bara and Parsa districts. Coronavirus restrictions prevented many people in these areas from going out to work and put many living hand-to-mouth existences in a precarious position. Each beneficiary family received a food package containing 30kg rice; 3kg of lentils; 2 litres of cooking oil; salt; and 4 bars of hand soap. Facemasks were also given out at each distribution point.

The remaining funds were used to purchase Personal Protective Clothing (PPE) for IMPACT-supported clinics and hospitals in the Terai region, and it is with gratitude that we report on how this has helped to keep health workers and over 20,000 patients safer from the risk of Covid-19 throughout the grant period.

Report on activities

Throughout the pandemic, there have been severe shortages of PPE in Nepal. The country does not manufacture standard items of PPE internally and the supply chain from abroad was disrupted by the high demand for items globally, which pushed up prices and affected delivery to lower-income countries.

The situation on the ground became critical: *‘One doctor or nurse needs at least eight pieces of PPE everyday but typically we were seeing health workers using the same PPE for 12 hours from morning to night without changing it due to shortages. This put moral pressure on them, as their health was at risk and that of their patients. Many were in a dilemma to continue or quit their jobs at the start of the pandemic’* – IMPACT Nepal.



The food distribution took place as soon as your funding was received, as reported in our April 2021 interim report

Following your generous offer to provide emergency support in the late summer of 2020, IMPACT Nepal conducted a needs-assessment at IMPACT-supported health facilities, across five districts in the Terai region. At the proposal stage, it was intended to support three IMPACT Nepal Ear Care Centres, the Auraiya Birthing Centre (funded by Eagle in 2018), and four government hospital with whom we partner closely. However, please note that this was subsequently changed to three government hospitals. This is because Gandak

hospital (as listed in our original proposal) was initially classified by the government as a Covid treatment centre but at the time of the PPE distribution, these services had been transferred over to Narayani hospital. Thus the PPE allocated for these two facilities was solely distributed to Narayani.

In summary, the following items have been provided to health facilities:

Items	IMPACT Nepal's 3 Ear Care Centres (located in Parsa, Rautahat and Kailali districts)	Narayani Hospital, Birgunj, Parsa District	Gajendra Narayan Singh Memorial Hospital, Saptari District	Koshi Zonal Hospital, Biratnagar, Morang District	Auraiya Birthing Centre, Rautahat District	Total distribution
Respirator masks	300 pcs	90 pcs	90 pcs	90 pcs	30 pcs	600
Medical grade protective suits (including masks, aprons and gowns)	300 pcs	90 pcs	90 pcs	90 pcs	30 pcs	600
Disposable examination gloves	300 pcs	100 pcs	100 pcs	100 pcs	100 pcs	600
Protective goggles	300 pcs	90 pcs	90 pcs	90 pcs	30 pcs	600
Infrared thermometer	4 pcs	1 pcs	1 pcs	1 pcs	1 pcs	8
Shoe coverings	300 pair	90 pair	90 pair	90 pair	30 pair	600
Head coverings	300 pcs	90 pcs	90 pcs	90 pcs	30 pcs	600
Hand sanitiser	20ltrs	5 ltrs	5 ltrs	5 ltrs	5 ltrs	40 ltrs



Health workers at IMPACT Nepal's Ear Care Centre in Birgunj with Eagle-donated PPE items

Distribution at the Auraiya Maternity Clinic and Birthing Centre, Rautahat

The Fondation Eagle-funded Maternity Clinic and Birthing Centre in the village of Auraiya received 30 full sets of PPE in this distribution. As you know, this is the only facility providing maternal healthcare to the poorest women and babies in the surrounding area. Since receiving the PPE, health workers have provided ante and postnatal care, and safe deliveries to 110 women. *'We are sure that this PPE distribution at the Birthing Centre has helped to save lives during the pandemic. Not only keeping people safe from Covid but also encouraging women to feel safe enough to attend for delivery services.'* – **IMPACT Nepal.**



'At the start of the pandemic we had no PPE. One type of fear always existed in my mind remembering my small daughter whom I have left in my home. I felt relief after getting PPE which was provided by IMPACT Nepal.'

Kamli Devi (Assistant Nurse Midwife)



'I would like to thank IMPACT Nepal for providing PPE to us during this covid pandemic. Auariya birthing centre is providing safe delivery, antenatal and postnatal checkup to local people. People from nearby municipalities also come here. During start of Covid, we staff were anxious due to the lack of PPE, as in India, which is not far from here, daily death rate of people was peaking and people used to visit our centre for services who were in contact with them. We have not received even mask from government side. So we grateful that IMPACT Nepal has provided PPE to us, and we can provide our service day and night without any fear.' **Ranjita Kumari Yadav – Assistant Nurse Midwife (24)**

Distribution at IMPACT Nepal's Ear Care Centres

IMPACT Nepal's Ear Care Centres provide primary ear care, treatment, surgery and hearing care services in underserved areas. They were established in response to the high incidence of hearing impairment in Nepal, where it is the single biggest cause of disability - affecting approximately 15% of the population. So much of this burden of suffering is unnecessary, since it could have been prevented or reversed but in remote areas, medical care of any kind is scant, let alone specialist ear care. It was thus vital that their services were able to continue safely in spite of the pandemic. Since the distribution of the Eagle PPE, 12,500 people have accessed ear care services at these centres.



Bal Kishor Chaudhary (Pharmacist) and Ranju Kumari Mishra (Ear Assistant) at IMPACT Nepal's Ear Care Centre in Rautahat

'Covid has hit very badly in all areas of the Terai region. During the first lockdown, due to Covid-19, we were completely closed for two months and were not be able to provide any services due to the lack of PPE. We were in fear to run the Centre for providing ear care services without PPE at that time. However, thanks to the IMPACT Nepal donor, we now have PPE to use and feel safe ourselves for providing service to our patients.' **Ranju Kumari Mishra, IMPACT Nepal Ear Assistant**



IMPACT Nepal was especially grateful to receive the PPE in time for the staging of their first Ear Surgery Camp since the start of the pandemic at which 50 patients underwent surgery to restore their hearing.



PPE distribution at three IMPACT-support hospitals

Thanks to your support, items of PPE were also distributed to three of IMPACT Nepal's partner hospitals.

- Narayani Hospital, Birgunj, Parsa District
- Koshi Zonal Hospital, Biratnagar, Morang District
- Gajendra Narayan Singh Memorial Hospital, Saptari District

It is estimated that between them, they have served 8,100 patients since receiving the supplies. IMPACT Nepal reports that health workers at these hospitals were enormously grateful for Eagle's support, as PPE from government sources has been erratic and many had considered leaving their employment for fear of infection. The patients who have benefited were general patients and also patients being treated for the Coronavirus at Koshi and Narayani hospitals. These two facilities were admitting 30 patients per day during the peak.

'Doctors and nurses were in panic when they had to treat patients without PPE due to shortage of it during Covid pandemic in Koshi Hospital. Many were distressed and were in dilemma to continue job or to quit it. Their morals forced them to work but PPE and other medical supplies were not available. IMPACT Nepal has provided PPE and other medical supplies during such situation to our health worker. I would like to thank you for this great support.'

Medical Superintendent Dr. Chumman Lal Das of Koshi Zonal Hospital



'People were most distressed and worried during covid pandemic. More than that, we doctors were worried about our health system not being able to provide PPE to us. We were compelled to work by our humanity despite the lack of facilities provided to us. Thanks to IMPACT Nepal for providing PPE during such a shortage of it, so that we could look after the patients during pandemic.'

Medical Superintendent Dr. Ranjit Kumar Jha of Gajendra Narayan Singh Hospital



'We saw many people dying of Covid-19 in our hospital, which forced us to show humanity by going to work, more than protesting against the administration for lack of PPE. Thanks to IMPACT for providing PPE to us, the frontline health workers in Narayani Hospital.'

Medical Superintendent Dr. Mohammad Annamul Haque

Thank you We are grateful so grateful for this grant, which has provided food and hygiene support to 1,980 people during their moment of great need, and has also benefited 20,710 patients attending seven health facilities. Thanks to you, they were cared for during their hospital stay by health workers who were adequately equipped to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Not only has your support strengthened health service delivery, it has motivated and protected health care workers as they carry out their frontline roles. *'IMPACT Nepal, on behalf of all beneficiaries, would like to express its gratitude to the donor for this support when we needed it so urgently. The shortage of PPE in many hospitals due to Covid-19 had created fear in health workers, as they were working without adequate PPE in such pandemic situation. Many of them were planning to quit their jobs due to the lack of safety and security of both health care workers and beneficiaries. Timely support of PPEs to health facilities helped a lot to encourage them in their fight against Covid-19 and to save lives of many patients.'* – IMPACT Nepal

Expenditure report

Item	Cost £	Expenditure
600 x Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) packs for health care workers in 8 IMPACT supported clinics including Auraiya Birthing Centre. PPE pack includes: 3 ply surgical Masks, Goggles/eye protectors, Gown, Disposable Gloves, Head cover, Shoe cover, Sanitiser	11,400	11,400
8 x Infrared thermometers	240	240
Emergency food parcels for 300 families	5,900	6,490*
Transportation and logistics	500	500
Sub Total	18,040	18,630
Project Management @5% (IMPACT Nepal)	902	902
Grand Total	18,942	19,532

Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 1.31 USD (11.08.20)

* Budget note: There was an overspend of £590 because IMPACT Nepal supported 330 families in total (300 were budgeted for initially). IMPACT UK supplemented the budget with funding generated by our Coronavirus emergency appeal.