

URGENT ACTION

SECOND DOSE VACCINES DELIVERED FOR 1.4 MILLION PEOPLE

Over 1.4 million people from at-risk populations in Nepal, who took their first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine between 7 and 15 March 2021, waited more than five months for a second dose due to dangerous shortage of vaccines. Following large global mobilisation, vaccines have since been delivered to Nepal with the support from governments of Japan (1.6 million), Bhutan (230,000) and UK (130,000).

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.

Amid a deadly second wave of Covid-19 in Nepal, 1.4 million people from at risk groups, mostly above 65 years of age, were unable to receive their second dose of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines due to a supply shortage. Following a wait of more than five months between doses, additional vaccines have been now delivered to Nepal by various countries.

In response to international mobilisation calling on the UK to urgently look to directly supply Nepal with additional vaccine doses, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, the Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth, sent a communication to Amnesty International acknowledging the needs and reiterated UK's commitment to support Nepal.

A broader appeal was also made to the broader [international community](#)—particularly wealthier nations with large vaccines supply—to address the glaring vaccines gap in Nepal, where the current trajectory of vaccinations would take the country more than 10 years to vaccinate 70% of its population.

On 26 August 2021, the government of UK delivered [130,000 doses](#) of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines to Nepal. Earlier, the government of [Japan](#) donated 1.6 million doses, and the government of [Bhutan](#) shared 230,000 doses as part of a tri-patriate vaccine lending agreement with AstraZeneca and Nepal.

While it is a relief that the required doses were delivered to Nepal in August, this case is symptomatic of a broader issue regarding a lack of equitable access to vaccines worldwide. Amnesty International continues to advocate for global equality in access to vaccines for low- and middle-income countries, including calling for [accountability from big pharmaceutical companies](#).

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Group (they/them)

THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 71/21

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa31/4301/2021/en/>

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