

## Screening for COVID-19, malaria and tuberculosis: An effort to prevent transmission in Nepal

Kapilvastu Integrated Development Services (KIDS), a local partner, has been stationed at the Krishnanagar Ground Crossing Point of Lumbini Province to comprehensively screen for diseases. Following the surge of COVID-19 in 2020, this health service has been in operation to facilitate safe journeys of returnee migrants from India. Thousands of Nepalese citizens have benefited from the "Effective case management by strengthening Isolation Centers and Ground Crossing Points (GCPs) management for Rapid Response and Preparedness against COVID-19" project. COVID-19 tests along with malaria tests and tuberculosis tests have been conducted.

A total of 59,894 tests have been administered on individuals, including children, entering Nepal from the Krishnanagar Ground Crossing Point over the past 10 months. Of those citizens entering Nepal, COVID-19 antigen tests have been administered on 25,684 individuals with 655 men and 252 women having tested positive, and safely sent to home isolation. Those who tested positive for COVID-19 received health kits, and their respective families have been informed about the risk and safety measures against COVID-19.

To provide services to migrants during their travel, IOM provisioned for hand washing facilities, information boards, safe waiting spaces, breastfeeding corners and gender and disability friendly toilets at the check points.

Similarly, Malaria tests have been run on 187 returnee migrants entering Nepal from India. Another 1,090 tests were run for tuberculosis, out of which, 7 individuals tested positive. These individuals were referred to the hospitals.

This project supported to strengthen the overall capacity of the health-based facilities through provision of crucial equipment and human resources along with improved WASH facilities and strengthened protection mechanisms.