India has recorded more than 31 million COVID-19 cases, the world’s second-highest rate of infection behind the United States. The country has suffered more than 412,000 deaths, the majority of which occurred during its devastating second wave of infections that occurred in April and May 2021. At the peak of that wave, the country was recording an average of 300,000 new cases and 2,000 deaths per day.¹ The severe crisis rattled India’s healthcare system: hospitals across the country reported severe shortages of oxygen supplies, patient-care beds and essential medications. Sick patients lined up outside of hospitals awaiting available beds. As the death toll surged, cemeteries ran out of space, and bodies washed up on the banks of the Ganges river.² During this time, India became the first country to record more than 400,000 new infections in a 24-hour period.³ In response, states across the country imposed sweeping restrictions, including curfews, movement restrictions and prohibitions of large gatherings.

By the end of May, the number of new cases began to steadily decline. On May 25, the country reported 195,995 new cases—its lowest daily increase since April 13.⁴ A month later, on June 25, the country recorded about 50,000 new cases—a 26% decline. Though overall case numbers have continued to decline throughout the summer, several states are recording spikes in infections. For example, Kerala is in the grips of a massive surge, with more than one-third of the total nationwide cases recorded in the state.⁵ In response, authorities announced a lockdown in certain areas on July 14, in an effort to curb the spread.

As a result of these continuing hotspots, experts have warned that a new wave of cases—particularly of highly infectious variants—could hit India within weeks, yet of the 1.4 billion people in India, only 5.6% are fully vaccinated. The government has subsequently launched an effort to inoculate all adults, with a target of 950 million people vaccinated by the end of 2021.⁶ However, the pace of the vaccination campaign has faltered due to shortages of vaccines and various logistical hurdles, including lack of cold-chain storage and supplies, and limited transportation.

6 Ibid.
International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is working with local partners across the country to provide critically needed equipment and supplies—including oxygen generators, oxygen delivery and storage supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), medications and more—to hospitals and COVID-19 treatment facilities. At the height of the second surge, our team delivered essential oxygen supplies and equipment to healthcare facilities in 11 states. To date, our team has procured and distributed more than 1,000 items of oxygen supplies, equipment and materials, supporting more than 25 healthcare facilities and COVID-19 treatment centers.

In addition, International Medical Corps and our partners are procuring some 8,000 N95 masks that will be distributed to healthcare facilities in hotspot areas over the next month. Our team continues to provide additional oxygen equipment and storage supplies, patient care monitors, ventilators, intensive-care unit (ICU) beds, pulse oximeters and medical consumables to help healthcare facilities and treatment centers prepare for any subsequent spikes in cases.

In collaboration with a local partner, Doctors For You, International Medical Corps also is working to address urgent needs related to essential medications. Hospitals across the country have reported severe shortages in medications needed to treat COVID-19 and many underlying conditions, including diabetes. Our team is working with local partners and vendors to procure and distribute medications—including methyl prednisolone, dexamethasodium, heparin, hydrocortisone and insulin—to support 10 healthcare facilities in hotspot areas. We also are working with Doctors For You to rapidly scale up vaccination capacity by procuring and delivering essential cold-chain storage and supplies, PPE (including N95 masks and gloves), vaccine carriers and syringes.

Along with our efforts in India, International Medical Corps also is working to strengthen preparedness and response capacity in neighboring countries. For example, International Medical Corps has partnered in Nepal with the Public Health Concern Trust (PHECT) to procure and deliver critical-care supplies and equipment, including ventilators, pulse oximeters and PPE, to help healthcare facilities increase capacity.

Moving forward, International Medical Corps will continue to coordinate with local partners to address immediate needs, provide supplies and equipment, and help healthcare facilities prepare for and respond to any subsequent surges of infections, as well as support the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and address issues around vaccine hesitancy and access.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Locations Served</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cryogenic containers</td>
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<td>Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Oxygen concentrators</td>
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<td>Bihar, Karnataka, New Delhi, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh</td>
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<td>Oxygen plants</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, New Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh</td>
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</tbody>
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