



GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND POPULATION



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Nepal NSOAP Orientation Workshop

19-22 July 2021
Kathmandu, Nepal & virtual



REPORT

In Partnership with



PROGRAM IN GLOBAL SURGERY
AND SOCIAL CHANGE
Harvard Medical School



INTRODUCTION

In an effort to move towards fulfilling Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Nepal Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) conducted a four-day Orientation Event on the process of developing a National Surgical Obstetric Anesthesia Plan (NSOAP) for the country.

This NSOAP Orientation event marked an important milestone in a roadmap towards formulating an NSOAP for Nepal. It was co-hosted by the Nepal MoHP and UNITAR, in partnership with Harvard Medical School Program in Global Surgery and Social Change (PGSSC), the Global Surgery Foundation (GSF), and the Nick Simons Institute (NSI). The event was held as a 4-day hybrid (partially virtual / partially face-to-face) event and was highly interactive.

The main objective of the NSOAP Orientation event was to familiarize all major stakeholders with the NSOAP initiative and align them towards the common goal of starting the process of developing an NSOAP unique for Nepal.

BACKGROUND

Surgical care as a pathway towards UHC

It has been shown that surgical, obstetric and anaesthesia (SOA) care is the cornerstone for ensuring strong, resilient and sustainable healthcare systems.

The 68th World Health Organization (WHO) Assembly in 2015 passed a resolution (WHA68.15) to strengthen emergency and essential surgical and anaesthesia services as a component of UHC. This effort was directed towards helping WHO member states in realizing the SDGs. Following the political mandate of WHA 68.15 and the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery (LCoGS), experts around the world produced a comprehensive planning methodology for safe SOA care, the NSOAP Manual.

As a UN member state, Nepal was one of the signatories on the Resolution WHA 68.15 and is committed to lead the way in strengthening emergency and essential surgical and anaesthesia services.

Why focus on surgical care – in Nepal?

Most low and middle-income countries (LMICs), including Nepal, are seeing a rapid increase in non-communicable disease (NCD) profiles and traumatic injury. It is well understood that surgical care systems form the foundation of strong health care systems, and in particular the backbone of treatment options for most NCDs. Over two thirds of NCDs cannot be prevented and will require some form of surgical intervention over the course of a patient's lifetime. Studies have shown that investing in SOA services is affordable, saves lives and promotes economic growth. However, it is a fact that surgical care has largely been left out of the mainstream discussions of global health despite its indispensable role in achieving the SDGs and UHC.

More than 90% of the world's poor lack access to basic surgical care. At least 77.2 million disability-adjusted life-years (DALY) could be averted by improving access to basic, life-saving surgical care alone. Patients from remote villages and marginalized social groups in Nepal continue to face significant obstacles when attempting to access surgical care. To adequately treat these types of conditions, SOA care must be an integral part of the health system.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

The framework of the Orientation Event followed the NSOAP process outlined in the recently published NSOAP Manual ([download](#)). This manual was the result of an exhaustive collaborative effort by multiple stakeholders around the world and published recently by Harvard PGSSC, UNITAR, and the Global Surgery Foundation with the goal of helping countries increase their capacity to deliver safe and affordable emergency and essential SOA services.

The 4-day NSOAP Orientation event was partially held as a private event at the Kathmandu Marriot Hotel Convention Center, as well as virtually via UNITAR's Division for People and Social Inclusion's Zoom account.

The event was hosted after-work hours (from 1-3pm CET/ 5-7pm Nepal time) to facilitate stakeholder availability and participation, all the while remaining in line with the necessary COVID-19 security measurements to secure a safe event.

Participants from the 2nd and 3rd day breakout sessions were guided to their respective groupings and dedicated rooms after the daily opening remarks. Each breakout session was monitored by a stakeholder representative and guided by a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted the relevant discussion topics and various country/ provincial needs.

EVENT PARTICIPANTS

The series of meetings included key actors from various sectors, including Federal/ Provincial Government, Academia, Professional Societies, Private Sector and Donor Agencies.

HOSTS

- Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal (MoHP)
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

PARTNERS

- Harvard Medical School – Program in Global Surgery and Social Change (PGSSC)
- The Global Surgery Foundation (GSF)
- Nick Simons Institute, Nepal (NSI)
- Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)

EVENT SCHEDULE

Day	Topic	Date	Time (Nepal)	Participants
1	Session 1 – NSOAP Framework Introduction and Global Lessons on NSOAP Development	19th July	18:00-20:00 14:15-16:15(CEST)	All Stakeholders
2	Session 2.1 – Stakeholder Meeting with Federal/Provincial Government and Donor Agencies	20th July	13:00-15:00 09:15-11:15(CEST)	Government Sector and Donor Agencies/EDPs
3	Session 2.2 – Stakeholder Meeting with Academia, Professional Societies, and Private Sector	21st July	13:00-15:00 09:15-11:15(CEST)	Academia, Professional Societies, Private Sector
4	Session 3 – The Collaborative Effort for Strengthening of Surgical Care in Nepal	22nd July	18:00-19:30 14:15-15:45(CEST)	All Stakeholders

DAY 1

Orientation Program Schedule

Master of Ceremony: Mr. Santosh Subedi

MONDAY 19TH JULY, SESSION 1

Time	Program	Speakers
5:00–5:30 PM	Welcome Remarks and Keynote Address	Dr. Madan Kumar Upadhyaya Chief, Quality Standard & Regulation Division MoHP Dr. Geoff Ibbotson Senior Health Advisor, UNITAR Executive Lead, Global Surgery Foundation Dr. Rajesh Sambajirao Pandav WHO Representative to Nepal Dr. Roshan Pokhrel Secretary, MoHP
5:30–6:00 PM	Making the Case for Prioritizing Surgical Care	Dr. Scott Corlew Lecturer, Harvard PGSSC
6:00–6:30 PM	Current Status of Surgical Care in Nepal	Dr. Madan Kumar Upadhyaya Chief, Quality Standard & Regulation Division MoHP
6:30–7:00 PM	NSOAP Introduction: Theoretical Framework	Dr. Kee Park Director of Policy and Advocacy, Harvard PGSSC
7:00–7:30 PM	NSOAP Development Process Model	Dr. Lubna Samad Paediatric Surgeon, IHHN Director, IRD Global
7:30–7:45 PM	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Madan Kumar Upadhyaya Chief, Quality Standard & Regulation Division MoHP

DAY 2 Orientation Program Schedule

Master of Ceremony: Dr. Sangeeta Kaushal Mishra

TUESDAY 20TH JULY, SESSION 2.1

Time	Program	Speakers
5:00–5:30 PM	The Role of Federal/Provincial Governments and Donor Agencies in NSOAP Development	Dr. Sangchul Yoon Visiting Professor, Harvard PGSSC
5:30–7:00 PM	Group Discussion for Federal and Provincial Government	Dr. Madan Kumar Upadhyaya Chief, Quality Standard & Regulation Division MoHP Dr. Sangeeta Kaushal Mishra Director, Chief Consultant, Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital MoHP Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, NAMS
	Group Discussion for Donor/EDPs	Dr. Bhagawan Koirala Head of Department, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, IOM, TU President, NMC Dr. Shankar Man Rai Plastic Surgeon, Kirtipur Hospital, PHECT-Nepal Professor of Plastic Surgery, NAMS Country Director, RESURGE International

DAY 3 Orientation Program Schedule

Master of Ceremony: Dr. Ganesh Dangal

WEDNESDAY 21ST JULY, SESSION 2.2

Time	Program	Speakers
5:00–5:30 PM	The Role of Academia, Professional Society, and Private Sector in NSOAP Development	Dr. Rennie Qin Research Fellow, Harvard PGSSC
5:30–7:00 PM	Group Discussion for Academia/Councils	Dr. Pradeep Vaidya Professor, Surgery, TUTH Assistant Dean, IOM Consultant, Hepato Biliary and Pancreatic, Laparoscopic Surgeon and Therapeutic Endoscopist Dr. Peeyush Dahal Head of Department, Plastic Surgery, Bir Hospital Dean, NAMS President, Nepal Burn Foundation Executive Member, Nepal Burn Society
	Group Discussion for Professional Societies/Associations	Dr. Ravi Ram Shrestha Professor in Anaesthesiology, NAMS Chief Consultant, Anaesthesiologist and Critical Care Physician, Bir Hospital Dr. Ganesh Dangal President, NESOG Academic Director, PHECT-Nepal Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, NAMS

DAY 4 Orientation Program Schedule

Master of Ceremony: Mr. Santosh Subedi

THURSDAY 22ND JULY, SESSION 3

Time	Program	Speakers
5:00–5:15 PM	Welcome Remarks	Dr. Gunaraj Lohani Chief, Policy Planning & Monitoring Division MoHP
5:15–5:45 PM	Summary of Key Takeaways	Dr. Sangeeta Kaushal Mishra Director, Chief Consultant, Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital MoHP Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, NAMS
5:45–6:00 PM	Commitment Towards Nepal's NSOAP Initiative	Mr. Alex Mejia Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion UNITAR
6:00–6:15 PM	Keynote Address	Mr. Nikhil Seth UN Assistant Secretary-General Executive Director, UNITAR
6:15–6:45 PM	Closing Remarks: Vision for Surgical Care Strengthening Nepal 2030	Mr. Laxman Aryal - Chief Guest Secretary, MoHP
6:45–7:00 PM	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Madan Kumar Upadhyaya Chief, Quality Standard & Regulation Division MoHP

SESSIONS

Plenary (Day 1):

The event was officially opened with remarks by

- Dr. Madan Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief, Quality Standard & Regulation Division MoHP
- Dr. Geoff Ibbotson, Senior Health Advisor, UNITAR and Executive Lead, Global Surgery Foundation
- Dr. Rajesh Sambajirao Pandav, WHO Representative to Nepal
- Dr. Roshan Pokhrel, Secretary, MoHP

Day 1 continued with a presentation by Dr. Scott Corlew, Lecturer, Harvard PGSSC, on the background and importance of surgical, obstetric and anaesthesia planning to make the case for prioritizing surgical care. Dr. Kee Park, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Harvard PGSSC, followed with an introduction to the theoretical framework and steps for a horizontal integration into national policy and surgical systems. Dr. Lubna Samad, Paediatric Surgeon, IHHN and Director, IRD Global, presented an overview on the NSOAP implementation in Pakistan and its NSOAP model - highlighting key lessons, main challenges and strategies to overcome them. Dr. Madan Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief, Quality Standard & Regulation Division, Nepal MoHP, gave an overview of the current status of surgical care in Nepal, which included progress of existing national surgical initiatives and evidence from situational analysis study: Surgery in Nepal's Remote Districts, 2018.

Breakout rooms (Day 2 and Day 3):

On Day 2 and 3, selected participants were divided into breakout sessions according to their respective sectors.

Day 2 included two breakout rooms for stakeholders from Federal/Provincial Government (Group 1) and Donor Agencies (Group 2), respectively. Day 2 included breakout rooms for stakeholders from Academia and Professional Societies (Group 3) and the Private Sector (Group 4). A representative from each stakeholder group presented a summary of the group discussions' outcomes. This included the role of their sector or field in the NSOAP process and the six domains of surgical health systems:

- 1) Service Delivery,
- 2) Infrastructure, Products and Technology,
- 3) Workforce,
- 4) Information Management,
- 5) Financing and
- 6) Governance.

Participants were expected to interact with one another and to identify areas in which they could contribute, including discourse on the collective priorities and anticipated challenges with developing, as well as implementing an NSOAP. The main aim of these group sessions was to gain an understanding of the ongoing efforts of each sector and how this aligns with the NSOAP components and how they could contribute moving forward. In addition, it provided an opportunity to recognize specific stakeholders to have a more in-depth engagement in the future.

Closing ceremony (Day 4):

The final debrief session on the Thursday brought all participants together to summarize the outcomes of the previously held breakout sessions. Representatives from each working group were encouraged to offer a summary of the key takeaways emerging from their respective breakout sessions to be presented by Dr. Sangeeta Kaushal Mishra. Closing remarks were given by the Secretary of Health and Population, Mr. Laxman Aryal, by the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and UNITAR Executive Director, Mr. Nikhil Seth, as well as by the Director of the Division for People and Social Inclusion at UNITAR.



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

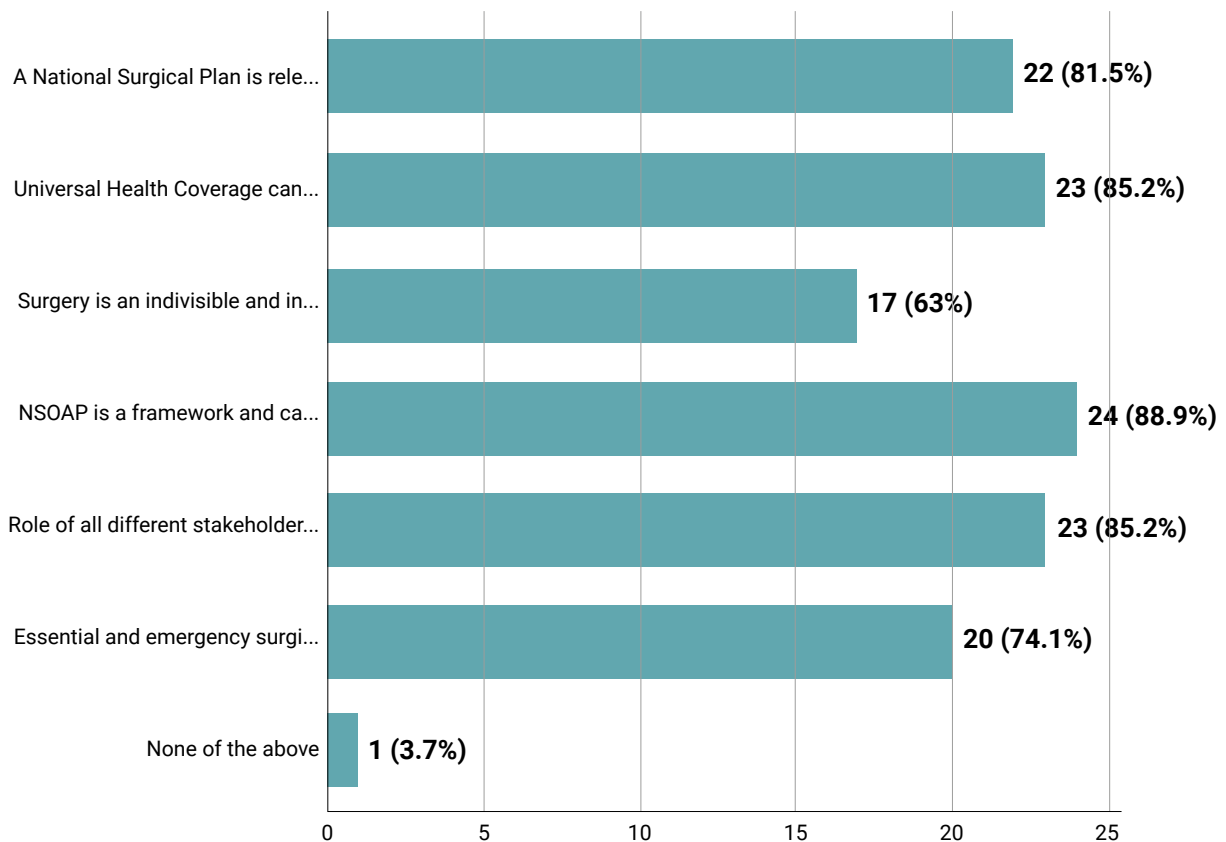
Day	Total	In-person	Virtual
1	124	44	80
2	49	26	23
3	52	20	32
4	99	32	67

WORKSHOP EVALUATION SURVEY RESULTS

Below are results from a survey that was sent to all participants of the event.

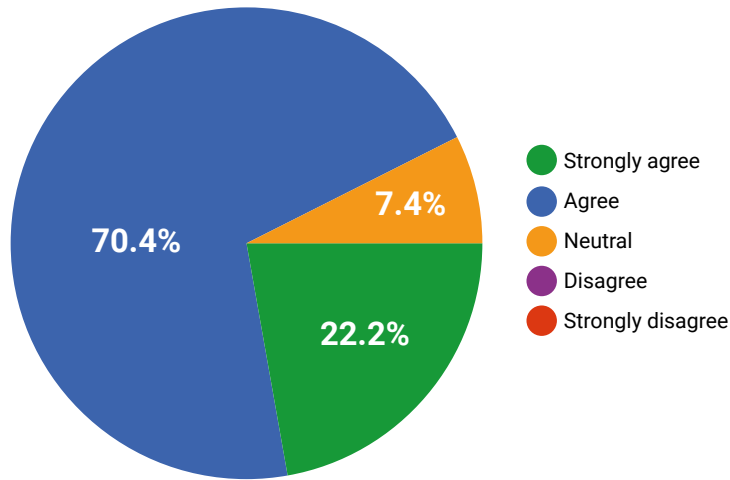
**Which of these themes did you takeaway from the presentations and discussions?
Select all that apply.**

27 responses



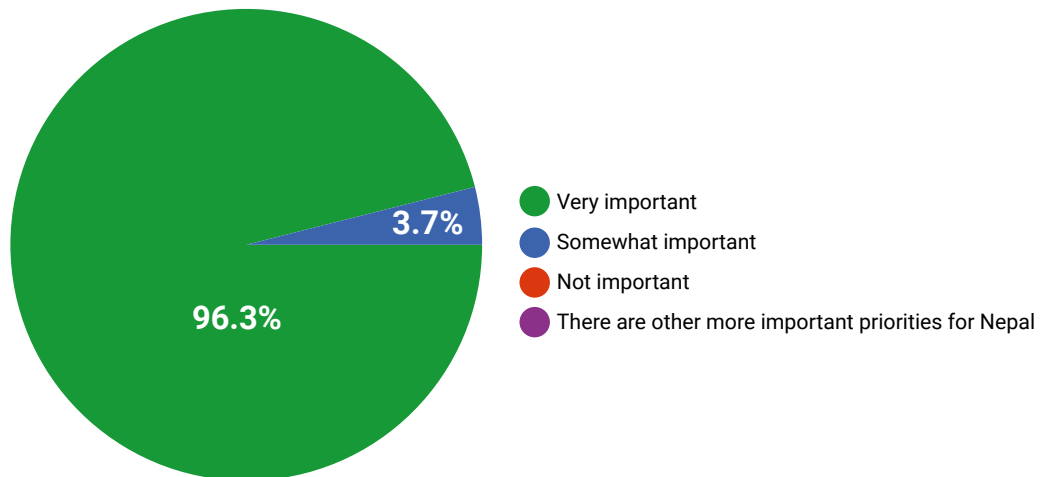
I have a clear understanding about the NSOAP process.

27 responses



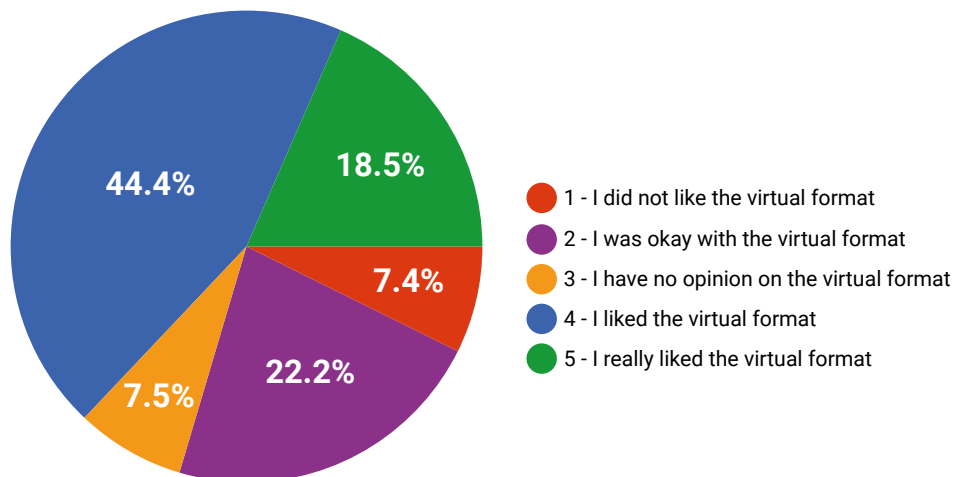
How important do you think it is to have a national surgical plan for Nepal?

27 responses



On a scale of 1 - 5, please rate the virtual format of the NSOAP Orientation Webinar Series (i.e., presentations or international partners joining virtually).

27 responses



EVENT OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS

Event participants agreed on the need to develop and implement an NSOAP for Nepal. To achieve this goal, the following next steps were outlined:

1. **Creation of technical working group** led by the Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal to conceptualize the first (and subsequent) phase(s) of the NSOAP development and implementation. The Nepal MoHP requested that the GSF and UNITAR continue to support his process and the working group along with their partner the PGSSC.

2. Organize a follow up **multi-stakeholder planning workshop** to be hosted in Q4 of 2021 to include stakeholders in drafting the NSOAP.

Working groups (for workshop for NSOAP Planning in Q4) to be scheduled and led by the MoHP and organized as follows:

- a. Steering committee led by the Secretary of Health (MoHP) - High level committee to be formed.
 - b. Technical working group – led by Head of the Division at MoHP.
 - c. Recommend similar committee in all provinces to ensure integration from entire country, as needs from provinces may vary.
3. Conduct a follow up meeting with Official Development Assistance funding agencies to further explore engagement early in the NSOAP development process.
 4. Follow up meeting with key leaders from the coordination team (UNITAR/ GSF/ NSI/ PGSSC/ Nepal MoHP) to develop next steps.
 5. End Goal within the next fiscal year: Finalize and implement the Nepalese NSOAP.

UNITAR, through its funding support by SIDA, stands committed to continue supporting the Nepal NSOAP process through stakeholder coordination and training.

**Please contact Dr. Geoff Ibbotson for any further questions at:
geoff.ibbotson@unitar.org**