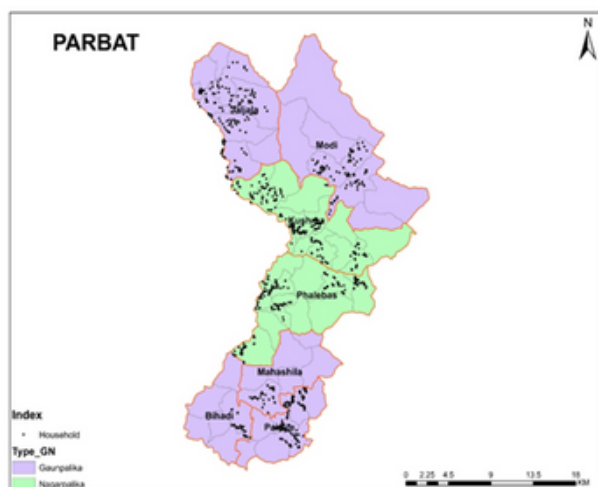
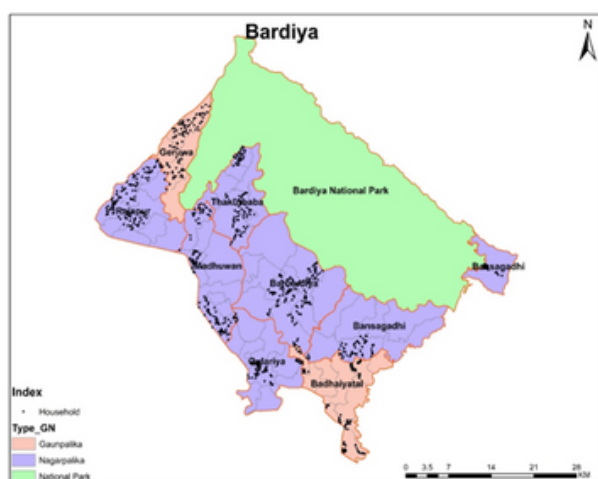


IMPROVING MASS DRUG ADMINISTRATION AFTER PRE-TRANSMISSION ASSESSMENT SURVEY (PRE-TAS) FAILURE

(MAR 2019 – JUL 2022)

Nepal has been implementing Mass Drug Administration (MDA) program since 2003. The program was initiated in all 75 districts in 2013 and later in 2017, it was discontinued in more than half of the districts. Nepal is one of the first countries in the global program to achieve 100% geographical coverage, reaching all 63 districts out of 77 districts with MDA. About 48 out of 63 have stopped MDA and are on post-MDA surveillance. The remaining 15 districts have failed the pre-TAS/TAS at least once. This study gathers insights into factors associated with MDA coverage and compliance. This study evaluates new program changes on the effectiveness of MDA for Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) in two districts of Nepal that have repeatedly failed pre-TAS surveys over more than 10 years. This study also evaluates changes to MDA caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

STUDY COVERAGE



KEY FINDINGS

- Our household survey showed a substantial increase in MDA effectiveness in both districts: a 12% increase in coverage in 2021 (85%, n=6,275/7,412) compared to 2019 (73%, n=5,823/7,982) and a 9% increase in the total number of people reported to have swallowed LF drugs in both districts in 2021 (80%, n=5,952/7,412) compared to 2019 (71% (n=5,676/7,982).
- Our ethnographic research found that migrants, day laborers, people with pre-existing medical conditions, more educated urban households, younger children, alcoholics, menstruating young women, the frail and elderly, and people living in remote communities were less likely to receive and take LF drugs.
- Our household survey found that the increase in MDA effectiveness was predominately due to two main factors: (1) changes in migratory patterns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that increased the number of people present in the district at the time of MDA in 2021; and (2) changes to the eligibility criteria for MDA that allowed people with preexisting medical conditions, the elderly and younger children to receive LF drugs.

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