

Early Recovery Cluster Meeting

17th June 2020 at MoFAGA

Participants:

In person:

MoFAGA officials under leadership of Bishnu Dutta Gautam, Joint Secretary, MoFAGA including representatives from NPC, Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC), UNDP, Unicef, WFP, IFRC, NRCS and INGOs in person, and remotely over Zoom

Highlights:

1.	<p>The COVID-19 context is different than the previous disaster the country has faced and calls for a concerted approach between government and development partners/actors to ensure that relief and support measures are deployed to soften the socio-economic impact of the unfolding health emergency. The EarlyR cluster will focus on supporting municipalities/palikas to put in place, administer, fund, and implement livelihood specific programme interventions targeting those who have been impacted the most. First and foremost, activities need to be informed by local needs assessments conducted (or being conducted) by respective Local Governments (LG), for which MoFAGA has issued guidance. In other words, we should not so much develop new assessments, but rather focus on local assessments and on the granular information that they can provide to aid our targeting of key recipients of support. Thus, under the ER Cluster, activities need to be closely coordinated with the Local Governments with national anchoring with MoFAGA. The ERC can help to put in place a strong coordination, information management and sharing system.</p>
2.	<p>The key operating principles of the ERC were captured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist to restore/support livelihood of most vulnerable households through/in coordination with Local Governments (NP/GP) through short-term responses to address the most pressing impacts of COVID-19.• Design activities based on the local needs assessments carried out by respective LGs and on their capacity gaps.• Prioritize immediate interventions through repurposing of available programmes/projects and resources.• Prioritize (temporary) job creation interventions offering an opportunity of local employment.• Interventions such as: on-farm and off-farm activities, NTFP, skills-based service delivery, entrepreneurship strengthening through micro-enterprise-based interventions and capacity building, to be focused.• Coordinate on consolidate different assessments, with focus on NP/GP-led assessment• Assist the Govt with knowledge management/IM support to track recovery plans and activities and to avoid duplication.• Ensure that GESI issues are properly addressed in the Programme Cycle Mgmt

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support efforts to deliver on the costed recovery section of the NRRP, jointly with the Federal/Provincial/Local Govts and civil society in identifying mitigation and recovery activities, financial gaps and asks.
2.	The priority at this time is to design well-targeted activities based on local needs assessment. These can be funded in the short term through existing resources that different partners currently have at their disposal. Mobilization of new resources can continue in parallel. MoFAGA is keen on agencies taking this opportunity to repurpose (where warranted) their existing programmes and resources as immediate intervention plans towards C-19 response.
3.	A '4W' mapping approach – who, what, where, and when –remains very useful and the cluster should build further on this, allowing agencies sharing their deliverables. The resulting tracker will be a key product of the ER, and is expected to provide the cluster with specific information on available programme interventions and resources on which the cluster will further build on, exploring for additional resources mobilization. To this end, a simple template will be shared shortly with the cluster members/agencies working in the field of early recovery/recovery and response from the agencies.

A brief on meeting discussions:

The meeting was actively participated by the officials stated above, was chaired by Joint Secretary MoFAGA Bishnu Dutta Gautam. A brief presentation on ER cluster: principles, priority areas, coordination mechanism, mapping of contribution of members was made in the beginning by the chair. The meeting then discussed on the presentation and other ER related issues in the COVID-19 context. The ER cluster would focus on restoring and promoting livelihood and employment of most vulnerable segments of communities.

The meeting Chair JS appreciated the efforts being made under the ER cluster and stressed on the need that the ER initiatives should be developed on LGs' identified priority areas under the broader spectrum of livelihood and economic recovery. He also shared that the ministry has already circulated an assessment and programming framework to all 753 LGs and they are in their annual programme planning and budget development process taking support of the framework. He also opined that ER cluster should also work on gathering information on any assessment carried out or planned by any agency at any level so as to make national level consolidation of findings and also to contribute to reduce risk of duplication. He focused on repurposing of existing projects by agencies in immediately addressing livelihood/economic needs of COVID-19 affected communities at LGs with focus on most vulnerable groups across the country while exploring new resources will continue. Shiva Ranjan Paudyal, Under Secretary, NPC mentioned about an ongoing assessment on broader impact of the COVID-19 under NPC leadership which may take some time and stressed that the ER cluster would be instrumental in rendering essential support in fast restoring livelihood of most affected population.

Bernardo Cocco, Deputy RR UNDP appreciated the ownership to the cluster by the MoFAGA and participation and contribution of NPC in its fruition, leveraging MOFAGA and NPC experiences from past disasters, and shared about continuous support from UNDP and Unicef to the cluster as co-leads. He mentioned that who are interested to collaborating is important at this stage while working with/through LGs is crucial. He further said that 753 is a large number of municipalities, though needs are there

everywhere and how to prioritize is important in making special impact from limited resources available; time frame for the ER interventions and switching on to longer-term recovery.

Participants in the meeting in person and over zoom provided some very important inputs along with some concerns and queries. The sharing made were regarding identifying ways in utilizing cash based intervention; targeting the most vulnerable and needy population; fast mobilizing resources; addressing needs of special groups such as PLWD, senior citizens, women and children; reflecting government plan and resources on ER; anchoring resources in pipeline; considering likely impact of monsoon etc.

Conclusion:

The meeting concluded with agreeing on following immediate actions:

- ER Cluster (Lead/Co-leads) to share the 4W template to member agencies for their information sharing for national level stock taking on ER. The COVID-19 response ER Cluster to continue its coordination work and support to members on ER related issues.
- ER Cluster meetings to be convened on a needs-basis under MoFAGA leadership.

Annex - 1 Attendees		
In person		
Name	Title	Organization
Bishnu Dutta Gautam	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA)
Shivaranjan Poudyal	Under Secretary	National Planning Commission Secretariat (NPCS)
Rishi Acharya	Under Secretary	MoFAGA
Sabita Karki	Under Secretary	Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC)
Reshamlal Kandel	Under Secretary	MoFAGA
Mahendra Kumar Sapkota	Under Secretary	MoFAGA
Dilaram Panthi	Under Secretary	MoFAGA
Bernardo Cocco	Deputy Resident Representative	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Yanki Ukyab	Development Economist	UNDP

Name	Title	Organization
Kedar Babu Dhungana	Senior Programme Officer	UNDP
Thakur Dhakal	Social Policy Specialist	UNICEF
Subash Nepali	Economist and SDG Advisor	UN RCO
Naoki Maegawa	...	WFP
Lora Wuennenberg	Country Director	CARE/AIN Focal Point
Bishnu Kharel	Resilience Advisor	Save the Children
Krishna Kumar KC	Senior Officer	IFRC/CBDRR Platform
Ramesh Ghimire	CVA Coordinator	NRCS
Dinesh Gurung	DRR/Humanitarian Manager	DCA/CCG
Santosh Dahal	DRR Specialist	WVIN/AIN TGDM
Dr Suman Kumar Karna	DRR Freelancer	
Reenu Thapaliya	Section Officer	MoFAGA
Bishnu Hari Baral	Section Officer	MoFAGA

Remotely on Zoom: more than 20 representatives participated from development partners, UN system and INGOs