

**Virtual Eleventh Health Cluster Coordination Meeting
Kathmandu, Nepal
18 June 2020 -THURSDAY (2:00 – 3:00 pm)**

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Gunaraj Lohani, Lead of the Health Cluster and co-chaired by Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk, Co-lead of the Health Cluster. More than 45 health partners attended the meeting virtually. Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk facilitated the meeting.

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Agenda Items**

| Agenda Item | Responsible | Time |
|--|--|---------------|
| Welcome and Update | Dr. Gunaraj Lohani, Chair-Health Cluster | 14:00-14:05 |
| Follow-up action points and brief updates from partners | Dr. WANGCHUK, Lungten (Zangmo) Co-chair | 14:05-14:10 |
| COVID-19 response support from Nepal Red Cross Society | Mr. Bipul Neupane, Director, Health Services Department, NRCS | 14:10-14:20 |
| Summary of the meeting followed by discussions/questions | Dr. Lungten Wangchuk, Co-Chair Advisors MoHP and Chair (answers/comments to the questions) | 14:20 -14:25 |
| Discussions/Questions | All | 14:25-14:35 |
| Comments/Answers to the questions | Advisors/Chair | 14:35 – 14:40 |
| Conclusion and closing | Dr. Gunaraj Lohani, Chair-Health Cluster | 14:40-14:55 |

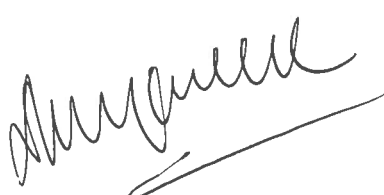
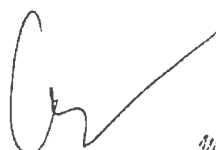
Synopsis of the meeting

Dr. Lohani welcomed all the participants to the meeting and provided brief updates on the responses of MoHP to manage and control COVID-19. The details of tests and isolation/quarantine of COVID-19 cases as of 17 June 2020 were also provided.

Dr. Lohani informed about different guidelines endorsed in the past week. The Public Health Standards during COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, 2077 and third revision of the Dead body management guidelines were endorsed in the past week and are available on the MoHP website. He informed that Safe physical distancing, Use of Mask and Sanitizer (SMS) will be the major public health measures for prevention and control of COVID-19 transmission.

He thanked Embassy of Israel in Nepal, Nick Simons Institute, Good Neighbors International, Nepal and KOREAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY for their generous supports through one door mechanism of medical, laboratory, protective and

As of 17 June 2020
 Total PCR sites: **22**
 Total PCR tests done: **149772** (average of more than 5500 per day in past week)
 Total PCR positive: **7177** (additional 2813 in past week)
 Total active cases: **5990**
 Total discharged: **1167**
 Affected districts: **74**
 Deaths: **20**
 Total RDT performed: **233543**
 Total isolation beds: **6689**
 Total people in isolation: **5990**
 Total quarantine beds: **256789**
 Total people in quarantine: **125798**

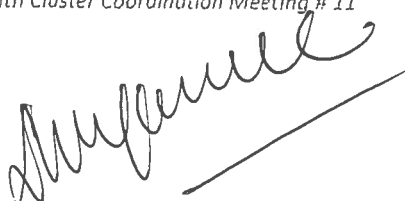

treatment commodities for COVID-19 response which are aligned to the key asks of the MoHP and asked for such generous and continued support from all the health partners quoting that key asks remains the same.

Dr. Lungten Wangchuk, Co-chair then provided brief updates from partners and their supports on COVID-19 response. She thanked all the health partners for aligning their support to the key asks from MoHP and requested to forward their inputs/suggestions on quarantine guidelines respecting the deadlines as the guidelines includes different other sectors other than health. She said that meeting the deadline will enable the chair to feed back the health component of the quarantine into the overall quarantine guidelines. She also appreciated partners for their support to the grass-root level through one door mechanism. Mental Health sub-cluster and its plan and major challenges were also presented by the co-chair. She also stressed on the key asks from MoHP reminding the areas such as laboratory and testing support, protective equipment and logistics for management of severe cases; sanitation, hygiene and health desk for returnees; continuation of essential health services; risk communication and community engagement and asked health partners to provide support to the provincial and local levels on Case Investigation and Contact Tracing as well.

Mr. Bipul Neupane, Director/Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), Health Service Department then provided details on the structure, plan, and resources of NRCS with the updates on support provided at different levels being an auxiliary to the government. He informed about the support provided on five key areas of health and care; water, sanitation, and hygiene; shelter; risk communication and community engagement and accountability; and protection gender and inclusion. He also informed about the NRCS's ambulance services, blood services and human resources mobilization support for COVID-19 response. He also informed that all the ambulances have been modified as per the COVID-specific NRCS ambulance service guidelines and virtual IPC training provided to the ambulance drivers. He informed that 206 ambulances all over the country were functional and 400 staffs and volunteers were ready to provide services for COVID-19 response. He also stressed on minimizing duplication of effort and sensitization of local levels on COVID-19 and its response approach for better outcome from the support provided. He also informed that the key bottlenecks/challenges in the field as unavailability of quality PPEs, management of demands and available resources and limited human resources with health background and technical skills. On queries regarding the COVID-specific NRCS ambulance service guidelines and training of ambulance drivers on IPC being as per national guidelines, he assured that the ambulance guidelines were in concurrence with national guidelines and the virtual IPC training of drivers was from Nursing and Social Security Division. Co-chair has agreed to connect the NRCS with the NHTC for future training activities.

Dr. Suresh Tiwari, Advisor emphasized the importance of support from the health partners and asked to align their support to the key asks from MoHP. He also stressed that as the cases are increasing exponentially a major support would be on formation of CICT teams and their actions at local levels. He also asked health partners to maintain enough stocks of quality assured logistics that may be required in future for COVID-19 response. Moreover, he stressed for the support on essential and basic health service continuation with risk communication and community engagement are important areas not only for COVID-19 for the overall health services in this situation.

Dr. Lungten then opened the floor for questions from the health partners for which answers were provided by Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari and Dr. Lungten.



- Regarding the question on projection of PCR test kits required and PCR machine required, Dr. Adhikari informed that Logistics Management Division has been engaged in projection of logistics required for PCR tests to meet the national target and assured that the projection will be shared by the logic director as soon as they have the projection. He also informed that the support of any number of PCR machine will be highly appreciated..
- On questions regarding the use of cloth masks and its quality Dr. Adhikari responded that the guidelines for cloth masks has been drafted with support from WHO and has been shared for further consultation and opinions of the experts this will be discussed, endorsed and shared.
- In response to the question regarding SOP and coordination with MoHA at PoE, Dr Suresh, Advisor informed that WHO has supported a health desk prototype that will be discussed in the IMS meeting at high level next week and once endorsed, this will have high impact in screening, registration, triaging and transfer to appropriate settings focused on returnees. This will also provide opportunities for partners for meaningful support at the POE in COVID-19 response which is currently one of the concerns. After providing answers to the queries, Dr. Lungten listed out the major action points as:
 - Support on key asks from MoHP.
 - Inputs on the health aspects in quarantine guidelines respecting the deadline by today 18th June 2020.
 - Strategize support as per the changing scenario.
 - Appropriate support on PoE after the prototype is endorsed by the partners.
 - Detailed information about re-aligned where possible can be provided to Dr Lohani (drgrlohani@gmail.com) Dr Lungten (wangchukl@who.int) OR to Mr Damodar (adhikarid@who.int)

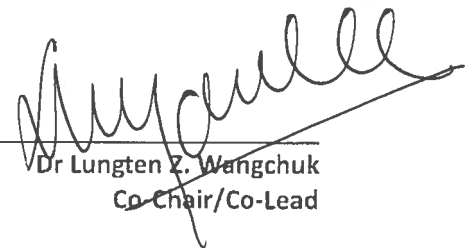
Dr. Adhikari, on behalf of the chair, thanked all the partners for their active participation, appreciated their support and requested to continue their support until we can overcome this COVID-19 pandemic..

Signed by the Chair:



Dr Gunaraj Lohani
Chair/Lead

21 June 2020

Dr Lungten Z. Wangchuk
Co-Chair/Co-Lead