

**Virtual Sixteenth Health Cluster Coordination Meeting
Kathmandu, Nepal
23 July 2020 -THURSDAY (2:00 – 3:00 pm)**

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Jageswor Gautam, Lead of the Health Cluster and co-chaired by Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk, Co-lead of the Health Cluster. More than 50 health partners participated the meeting virtually. Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk facilitated the meeting.

Agenda for #16 Health Cluster Coordination Meeting, 23 July 2020

Topic	Facilitator	Time
Welcome, Update (COVID & Monsoon)	Dr. Jageswor Gautam, Chair-Health Cluster	14:00-14:05
COVID-19 Epidemiological Situation	Dr. Basu Dev Pandey, Director, EDCD	14:05-14:10
Logistics readiness for COVID & monsoon response	Dr. Ramesh Kharel, Director, Management Division	14:10-14:15
Monsoon Response Readiness	Louisa Medhurst, UNRCO	14:15-14:25
Demonstration of online 3W system	Mr. Deepesh Sthapit, Information Management Officer, WHO	14:25-14:30
Discussions/Questions	All	14:30-14:40
Summary of the meeting	Dr. Lungten Wangchuk, Co-chair	14:40-14:50
Comments/Answers to the questions	Advisors/Chair	14:50-14:55
Conclusion and closing	Dr. Jageswor Gautam, Chair-Health Cluster	14:55-15:00

Synopsis of the meeting

Dr. Gautam welcomed all the participants to the meeting and provided brief updates on the responses of MoHP to manage the COVID-19. The details of tests and isolation/quarantine of COVID-19 cases as of 22nd July 2020 were also provided. He shared about the endorsement of 'Interim Standards for service management of Leprosy Control Program in the context of COVID-19 pandemic', 'Interim Guidance for the Health-related Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy of persons with COVID-19 in acute care settings' and 'Home Quarantine Standards, 2077'. He also informed about the support of 100 pieces of Infrared Thermometer by Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh. He stressed that as the lockdown has been lifted and mobility has increased, all levels of government expect increased support from the partners at all levels particularly for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing; Commodities for COVID response; Support for RRT mobilization; Diseases Surveillance etc. maintaining Public Health Standards. He further iterated the request to health partners for support on monsoon response readiness.

As of 22 July 2020
 Total PCR sites: 28
 Total PCR tests done: 327,614 (an addition of 28,785 in past week)
 Total PCR positive: 18,094 (an addition of 917 in past week)
 Total active cases: 5,368 (29.7%)
 Total discharged: 12,684 (70.1%)
 Deaths: 42 (0.2%)
 Total isolation beds: 9,272
 Total quarantine beds: 207,918
 Total people in quarantine: 20,842

Dr. Basu Dev Pandey, Director, Epidemiology and Disease Control Division, then provided with the epidemiological updates of COVID-19 as per time, place and person distribution. He informed that symptomatic cases were increasing but community transmission had not been identified in Nepal. He also provided information about the outcome status of COVID-19 cases, age specific case fatality ratio and comorbidity deaths. Following his presentation, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Kharel, Director, Management Division, Ministry of Health and Population, provided information about requirements, stocks, gaps and procurement plans for COVID-19 testing laboratory items (RNA extraction kits, PCR reagents, VTM), protectives and related items (PPEs, disinfectants, etc.), and medicine and ICU consumables. He also provided projections of stocks availability at the rate of their current supply and use. He informed about the Rapid Action Plan which includes Procurement Plan containing details about all the logistics requirement for COVID-19 response and stated that procurement of logistics is to be done after budget approval. He informed that there were adequate stocks of essential medicines nationally but requested for optimal use and distribution of available resources.

Dr. Lungten thanked Dr. Kharel for providing the projections on logistics required for COVID-19 response and appreciated the MOHP for coming up with the important Rapid Action Plan for responses. She then asked Louisa Medhurst from UNRCO for her presentation on monsoon response readiness. Louisa informed that there have been many incidents of landslides and floods throughout the country till 21 July 2020, however the casualties from landslide were higher this year. She also provided with the planning figures for humanitarian response for different vulnerable population and targets for different clusters with an estimated response for different clusters. She also informed that the humanitarian country team have been supporting country for monsoon response. On response to Sofia's question of prerequisites for activation of humanitarian action, she informed that the action is initiated with coordination from Ministry of Home Affairs for L2 or L3 emergencies.

Dr. Lungten Wangchuk, Co-chair informed about the increase in number of test done and increased number of discharges which is a good thing but cautioned about being vigilant all time as this virus strike we let our guards down. She then provided with the updates of responses from reproductive health sub-cluster as follows:

- Ongoing orientation on RMNCAH guidelines at the provincial, district and local level.
- Review of 39 maternal deaths with preparation for its analysis and recommendation. Review of 5 additional maternal deaths is progress.
- RH cluster partner supporting procurement, distribution transportation of life-saving MNH and FP commodities (Misoprostol, MgSO₄, etc.).
- Provincial health logistic management center in province 5 supported with a total of 12000 cycle of OCP and 5000 DMPA.
- Monitoring of selected SDPs for number of deliveries.

She also informed on the recommendations provided by the RH subcluster for incorporation of RH minimum standards in Quarantine guideline, coordination and support for essential MNH commodities, prioritization of procurement and distribution of MNH commodities and provision of PPEs for continuity of RMNCAH services. She further requested partners to provide with COVID-19 commodities and support for monsoon readiness and response. She also highlighted to maintain Public Health Standards in response and communicate health related response needs to the nearest HEOCs.

Dr. Lungten requested Mr. Deepesh Sthapit, Information Management Officer of Health Emergencies Program of WHO to demonstrate the online tool for partner's 3W mapping in order to minimize recording, reporting and communication of support provided for COVID-19 and monsoon response.

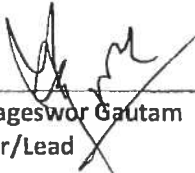
On the ask for province-wise test positivity rate and confirmed case rate, Dr. Samir informed that the information have been provided in the daily media briefings and Situation Report of MOHP. On query regarding strategy for confirming absence of community transmission of COVID-19, Dr. Basu Dev informed that at present there have been cases identified to have travel history or contact with people having travel history and thus are cluster of cases. He also informed about seroprevalence survey beginning soon to determine community exposure along with acute case finding from next week with representative samples from all the provinces and all ecological locations. Dr. Samir also requested to focus on non-food items for monsoon readiness and response along with PPEs for COVID-19 response and continuity of essential healthcare services. On the ask whether monsoon related support could be included in the tool, Dr. Lungten informed that tool modification will be done soon to include monsoon related support. She stressed that Public Health Standards (SMS) set by government should be followed more intensively now as the lockdown has been lifted. Regarding the query for requirements for CICT training, Dr. Basu Dev informed that the CICT training is provided to different provinces by EDCD under coordination with NHTC and different health partners and those CICT trained staffs are to provide the training to districts and municipal levels.

Dr. Lungten thanked Dr. Basu Dev and Dr. Kharel for their presentation. She further appreciated the projection and estimation of logistics and the availability of COVID and essential medicine supply stocks for Monsoon response. She also thanked Louisa for her presentation on humanitarian action for monsoon readiness and response.. Before ending the meeting, the chair, Dr Gautam thanked all the participants of the meeting for their presence and kind support in COVID-19 response. He also thanked Dr. Basu Dev Pandey, Dr. Ramesh Kharel and Ms. Louisa Medhurst (UN RCO) for their presentations and Mr. Deepesh Sthapit for his briefing on 3W online tool. He urged all the partners to highlight the importance of Public Health Standards (SMS) at community level, more so now, as the lockdown has been lifted.

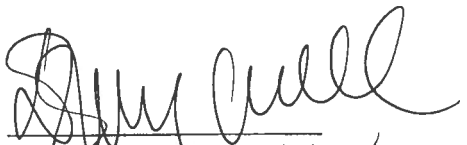
Decision/Action points

- Follow/reinforce the Public Health Standards in response and support
- Align support for COVID-19 with the key asks from MOHP
- Support for COVID-19 and monsoon response through one door mechanism
- Review, update and report your response contribution in the 3W online matrix for COVID-19 and monsoon response support.

Signed by the Chair:


Dr Jageswor Gautam
Chair/Lead
29 July 2020




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