

19th NATIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING Via ZOOM LINK

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

FRIDAY, 23rd Shrawan 2077 (7th August 2020)

The nutrition cluster was officially activated, led by the Family Welfare Division (FWD) of Department of Health Services (DoHS) of Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to initiate nutrition preparedness and response actions to address nutrition issues in existing COVID-19 targeting to under five years children, pregnant and lactating women and elderly (60 years plus) population. This is the 18th meeting after activating the nutrition cluster for COVID-19 preparedness and response. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MoHP as well as Nutrition Cluster lead of Federal Level Nutrition Cluster and co-chaired by the Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist UNICEF as well as Cluster co-lead. Altogether 100 plus people from different organizations were invited out of which 70 plus attended via zoom link.

| AGENDA FOR NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING | |
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| Time | Agenda Items |
| 11:00 AM To 01:30 PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of the meeting, welcome and sharing of meeting agenda • Major updates: Chair of the meeting, Nutrition cluster lead • Updates of the outcomes of the monitoring visits of World Breast Feeding Week celebration (1-7 August 2020) • Updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors) – major briefs/key achievements on the action points including World Breast Feeding Week (1-7 August 2020) • Updates from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups (IMAM, IYCF, BCC, IM, MN, Assessment) • Remarks: MOFAGA – MSNP national coordinator • Remarks: DOHS/MoHP - Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Director-General • Remarks with the closing of the meeting: Chair of the meeting - Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, nutrition cluster lead. |
| MAJOR DISCUSSIONS/ACTION POINTS | |
| Agenda 1: Chair of the meeting, scenario setting, welcome and sharing of meeting agenda | |
| <p>Chair of the Meeting: Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MOHP and the National Nutrition Cluster (NNC) Lead Chair the Session with Co-Chairing by Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist UNICEF and Co-lead of NNC.</p> <p>Welcome to the participants and agenda sharing: Chair of the meeting welcome to the all participants and Co-chair shared the meeting agenda as mention above.</p> <p>This was the 19th virtual nutrition cluster meeting after COVID-19 Global Pandemic disease (COVID 19) arise. In this meeting, altogether 70 plus participants attended (see annex 1 for detail of the participants).</p> | |
| Agenda 2: Major briefing from nutrition cluster: | |
| Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Nutrition cluster-lead presented the Global and National situation of Covid-19 and the major achievements of nutrition cluster . The major briefing presented by Mr. Parajuli has been attached in the annex 2 | |
| Agenda 3: Briefing about the outcomes of World Breast Feeding Week (WBFW) from 1-7 August 2020 | |
| <p>a. Prescription and Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes: Ms. Meena Mote Community Nursing Officer:</p> <p>Family Welfare Division (FWD) of DoHS/MoHP organized two days monitoring visit on 2 and 3 August 2020 to different 4 hospitals in Kathmandu valley and the hospital are: Maternity Hospital, Om Hospital, Kathmandu Medical Hospital and Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital. During the monitoring visit, it was found that Maternity Hospital and Om hospital have been providing breast milk substitute (formula milk) to the newborn babies only after the doctor's prescription. But in KMC and teaching hospital it was found that the formula milk has been given without prescription of the doctors. While visiting pharmacy of different hospitals, formula milk such as lactogen 1, farex, celiac 1 are mostly recommended for 0-6 months of infant and the product was not authorized from any of the government concerned agencies.</p> <p>b. Labelling about Breast Milk Substitutes: Mr. Harihar Prasad Sharma, Senior Public Health Officer of Nutrition Section of FWD:</p> <p>He started by Nepali slogan of world breast feeding week and highlighted that the monitoring visits based on Breast Feeding act 2049 and regulation 2051. During the monitoring visit to different hospitals and nearby the pharmacies of the hospitals. During their visit, Mr. Harihar and team found that there was no any promotion found against mother's milk. Mr. Sharma also explained that formula</p> | |

milk is distribution should be managed in closed coordination with Government's concerned authorities and inline with government act, policies and standards.

c. Internal practice of hospital about breast feeding: Ms. Kalpana Pandey, Public Health Officer of Nutrition Section of FWD:

Ms. Kalpana Pandey explained her experience of monitoring outcomes based on the following six major indicators as follows:

- **Training to health workers and breast-feeding counsellors and FCHVs:** The training was given in all four hospitals by MoHP on breast feeding and BMS management.
- **Breast Feeding Practice:** It was found that mother Milk was consider the most priority agenda in all 4 hospitals and if lactation failures then formula milk is referred.
- **Alternate of Breast feeding:** If there is lactation failure, alternate of breast milk is provided also called formula milk after consultation with the doctor only.
- **Supply of Formula Milk:** In three hospitals it was found that formula milk will be provided without cost expect teaching hospital Maharajgunj.
- **Supply the formula milk as a gift to hospital by the companies:** None of the four hospitals were receiving a formula milk as a gift from the companies.
- **Early initiation of breast feeding:** In 4 hospitals, all the mothers who have a child from normal delivery and cesarean section were advised for early initiation of breast feeding within an hour and continue until 6 months exclusively.

d. Dr Jhalak Gautam, Chief of child health and immunization section of FWD:

Dr Jhalak with his team visited to TU teaching hospital and Om hospital in Kathmandu and Nuwakot hospital. During his visit, he interacted with the mothers of young children and came to know that they have started breast feeding with an hour and will do exclusive breast feeding till six months. In addition, also discussed with mothers who were coming for vaccinations and came to know all the mothers were aware of breast feeding and its importance.

Dr Punya Poudel, chief of safe motherhood and neo-natal health of FWD: Dr Punya told that she had visited to maternity hospital and Kathmandu Medical College hospitals which was already described above. And in addition, during breastfeeding week Dr Paudel with other colleagues from FWD visited to Gajuri hospital, Dhading and interacted with Mr. khagendra Shrestha, medical superintendent of the hospital. She found that the hospital staff were not aware about breast feeding act and regulation and she and her team briefed to the hospital team about breast feeding act and regulation. She also facilitated to the team and women who were there about the counselling on all three E's of breast feeding. During interaction, the women and team of the hospital said that in case of lactation failure only we use formula milk. It was also found that the hospital was also celebrating breastfeeding week together with mothers including their capacity building and counselling of the mothers.

Agenda 4: Review of action points from previous meetings

Mr. Anirudra Sharma Nutrition cluster co-lead shared the action points and progress agreed in last meeting (**See Annex 3** for details of the status of the achievements)

Agenda 5: Progress updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors) focusing on nutrition service continuity and monitoring of ongoing nutrition services

| Discussion | Follow up actions |
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| <p>Vitamin A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Till 6 August 2020: 3,46,573 children under 5 years (78%) reached with vitamin A out of estimated 4,44,637 (It was 65% in last week) • Continue follow up for reporting <p>Monsoon Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 73 local levels of 11 districts are affected from incidence of floods and land slides • In two weeks only 1 death, 15 injured, 88 family affected, • Nutrition commodities supplied to Silingchowk, Sankhuwasabha (No SAM/MAM cases reported) <p>COVID Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE, health and hygiene materials targeting the holding centers of Damak and Kakarbhitta in Jhapa district and followed by personal safety training to staffs engaged in these holding centers from IOM • Installation plan of water tank with hand washing facility in Kakarbhitta Point of entry (PoE). • No PLW and U5 children reported <p>OTC and NRH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRH in Mechi is functional: last month 14 admission, 10 recovered and 4 still undertreatment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate to district health office, local governments and support agencies in the province for complete reporting of vitamin-A campaign. • Follow up to endorse nutrition in emergency response plans (COVID-19 and Monsoon) and TOR of H&N cluster. • Coordinate with local governments and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring. • Facilitate strongly to continue the NRH situated in all hospitals of province number one. • Follow safety precautions (family/mother MUAC) for the identification of the children age 6-59 months and bring the children age 6-59 months with SAM to OTC and NRH for the treatment. • Coordinate with concerned local governments and District Treasury Control Office (DTCO) to refund the unspent funds allocated for the training in Comprehensive Nutrition Specific Interventions (CNSI) and adolescent nutrition as well as ask local governments to submit the SOEs who have not yet |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRH in Koshi: Non-functional after the emergence of COVID, • NRH in Khotang and Okhaldhunga will run in current FY • 51 OTCs are in ready position • 4 SAM case reported from Haldibari, Jhapa and coordinated to send RUTF from PHLMC <p>MSNP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSNP volunteers have been supporting to all 26 local levels for promotion of breast-feeding week • Support of OTCs and NRHs for continue service delivery <p>Suaahara:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk communication and community engagement activities on covid19 and regular nutrition related works (IPC, radio program, phone counselling) ongoing through Suaahara frontline workers. Till date • Aired Breast feeding related jingle through different 17 FM station of province on breast feeding week. • Suaahara II ensured and facilitated GoN guideline and importance of breast feeding in palika and community level. • All Community and Palika level 150 Suaahara staffs are mobilized to support local government to celebrate "World Breast Feeding week". • Share covid19 context breast feeding promotional video in community, HF and Palika level by Suaahara staffs. • Organized breast-feeding related interaction events in hospitals for nursing staffs and lactating mothers. • District level Covid19 and CICT orientation for Health Coordinator and district level stakeholders conducted in Bhojpur | <p>submitted the SOEs and one pager report to FWD/DoHS/MoHP as soon as possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up and assess the nutrition commodities at district warehouse whether the commodities are available or not to meet the need of the target population in COVID-19 situation. |
| <p>Province number 2: Mr. Harishchandra Shah, the Director of Provincial Health Directorate (PHD) of province number 2 briefed the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the 136 Palikas of Province 2 celebrated the World Breastfeeding Week (1-7 August 2020). • Banners were displayed in the major places of the palikas/health facilities • Mothers were counselled on Breastfeeding when they visited health facilities. • UNICEF has been supporting the airing of nutrition messages through 32 FMs of province 2 • Due to the prohibitory order in all the districts of Province 2, utilization of health and nutrition services are badly affected. • Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) is ongoing in Province 2 with support from WFP. • 474 SAM cases were identified during the Vitamin A distribution program and concerned palikas are following up for the admission in the OTCs • 3 NRHs are functional. Rajbiraj has 7, Janakpur has 4 and Birgunj has 5 SAM cases under treatment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate to district health office, local governments and support agencies in the province for complete reporting of vitamin-A campaign. • Coordinate with local governments and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring. • Facilitate strongly to continue the NRH situated in all hospitals of province number one. • Follow safety precautions (family/mother MUAC) for the identification of the children age 6-59 months and bring the children age 6-59 months with SAM to OTC and NRH for the treatment. • Coordinate with concerned local governments and District Treasury Control Office (DTCO) to refund the unspent funds allocated for the training in Comprehensive Nutrition Specific Interventions (CNSI) and adolescent nutrition as well as ask local governments to submit the SOEs who have not yet submitted the SOEs and one pager report to FWD/DoHS/MoHP as soon as possible • Follow up and assess the nutrition commodities at district warehouse whether the commodities are available or not to meet the need of the target population in COVID-19 situation. |
| <p>Bagmati province: On behalf of Mr. Ramesh Adhikari, Director of Bagmati Province Indra Bhujel, Governance Expert from UNICEF briefed following points as: Vitamin A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Till 6 August 2020: 3,98,277 children under 5 years (68.39%) reached with vitamin A out of estimated 5,82,372 • Continue to facilitate to the rest palikas for unreporting <p>Monsoon Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 local levels of 13 districts are affected • 18 death and 78 family affected | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate to district health office, local governments and support agencies in the province for complete reporting of vitamin-A campaign. • Follow up to endorse nutrition in emergency response plans (COVID-19 and Monsoon) and TOR of H&N cluster. • Coordinate with local governments and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring. • Facilitate strongly to continue the NRH situated in all hospitals of province number one. |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhotekoshi and Melemchi: No PLW and U5 <p>OTC and NRH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRH in Bharatpur is functional (8 children: 4 discharged and 4 undertreatment), the rest in Sunakothi-12 MAM (supply requested), Chautara_1 SAM case and Hetauda: resumed 2 SAM under treatment) • 55 OTCs are in ready position (no commodities in Rasuwa and Nuwakot) <p>Suaahara II support for World Breast Feeding Week (WBF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jingle aired on breast feeding from 14 local FMs, Bhanchhin Aama (BA) & hello BA program • Distributed / reinforced breastfeeding decision tree in context of Word "Breast Feeding Week" • Promoted BF Video through social media & frontline workers • Counseled to mothers /HHs of under 2 children by all 184 Front Line Workers at community (EPI clinic, PHC/ORC) • Provided technical support to palikas / HF's & ensured MoFAGA guideline (WBF) reached to each Palika. • Covid-19 orientation to Health facility staffs and FCHVs as piloting in 5 health facilities is going on in Dhading district. • Follow up by Suaahara Tech staff to ensure Health and Nutrition commodity is continued. • Suaahara Resource Person (Dr.) supporting PHD to carry out COVID activities-Quarantine, Isolation, CICT, PTT, RRT and so on... • Risk communication and community engagement activities (radio program, phone counselling, SMS) ongoing through Suaahara program. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow safety precautions (family/mother MUAC) for the identification of the children age 6-59 months and bring the children age 6-59 months with SAM to OTC and NRH for the treatment. • Coordinate with concerned local governments and District Treasury Control Office (DTCO) to refund the unspent funds allocated for the training in Comprehensive Nutrition Specific Interventions (CNSI) and adolescent nutrition as well as ask local governments to submit the SOEs who have not yet submitted the SOEs and one pager report to FWD/DoHS/MoHP as soon as possible • Follow up and assess the nutrition commodities at district warehouse whether the commodities are available or not to meet the need of the target population in COVID-19 situation. |
| <p>Gandaki Province:</p> <p>Dr. Binod Bindu Sharma, Director of Provincial Health Directorate briefed the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now, Province/local governments & concern stakeholders have been jointly massively responding against the outbreak of COVID 19 & monsoon associated disasters. • Endorsement process of Provincial Nutrition Response plan is about to concluded by the Ministry of Social Development, Gandaki Province. • In Gandaki Province, all 3 NRHs are providing treatment services (Baglung 5, Parbat 3 and Pokhara 4 Children are under treatment) • Provincial health directorate has been coordinating & supporting to monsoon affected districts and local governments for the continuation & effectiveness of Health & Nutrition services. • World Breastfeeding Week is celebrating in all districts by creative ways and safe environment. • As one of the prime stakeholders in the field of nutrition section in Gandaki Province, Suaahara program has been supported as below: • Continuation of tele counseling services: Total reach: 1,82,153 This week: 8,130 • Broadcasting of Breast-feeding messages (6 times/day/station) via 16 FM stations and weekly based Bhanchhain Aama and Hello Bhanchhin Aama program. • Supporting on celebration of World Breast Feeding Week by field staff of Suaahara Program. • Broadcasting PSAs on COVID 19 and Nutrition through 16 local FMs (15 times/day/station) • Supported one Medical Doctor in Provincial Health Directorate and one Nursing staff in Nawalpur • ACF has been conducting awareness campaign & Training on IMAM in Nawalparasi (East). 300 mothers those have 5 years aged children were oriented on MUAC screening. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate to district health office, local governments and support agencies in the province for complete reporting of vitamin-A campaign. • Follow up to endorse nutrition in emergency response plans (COVID-19 and Monsoon) and TOR of H&N cluster. • Coordinate with local governments and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring. • Facilitate strongly to continue the NRH situated in all hospitals of province number one. • Follow safety precautions (family/mother MUAC) for the identification of the children age 6-59 months and bring the children age 6-59 months with SAM to OTC and NRH for the treatment. • Coordinate with concerned local governments and District Treasury Control Office (DTCO) to refund the unspent funds allocated for the training in Comprehensive Nutrition Specific Interventions (CNSI) and adolescent nutrition as well as ask local governments to submit the SOEs who have not yet submitted the SOEs and one pager report to FWD/DoHS/MoHP as soon as possible • Follow up and assess the nutrition commodities at district warehouse whether the commodities are available or not to meet the need of the target population in COVID-19 situation. |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACF has supported cash NPR 3450 to 511 ultra-poor Households. It's further planning for 250 more HHs in Nawalparasi (East) to support for basic nutrition perspective. | |
| <p>Province number 5: On behalf of Province 5, Ms. Dibya Manandhar Rijal from UNICEF Field Office Bhairawa briefed the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAAHARA is regularly supporting for social behavior change communication. Within this week 2382 pregnant women, 6969 lactating women and 19467 household were counselled. • out of total 4448 infected cases, 4141 are recovered and 13 are death. • Total number of 1602 people are in quarantine and the rate is in decreasing order. High rate of discharge then the infected case in province 5. • Established Breast-feeding room in Lumbini Provincial hospital. • Advocate and support to celebrate breast feeding week at province, district and local level. • Covid-19 and Mansoon preparedness plan has already been drafted and submitted to health directorate. To finalized it nutrition cluster meeting is planning to be held. • UNICEF, MSNP team and SAAHARA team are supporting extensively to provide the statement of Expenditure and refund the left budget to DoHS of last fiscal year AWPB program through UNICEF DCT. • In this lockdown situation 69 children are admitted in different OTCs. Out of this 11 are recovered, 3 defaulter and no death whereas 12 children are admitted in NRH of Bheri hospital and 9 children are admitted in Lumbini Provincial hospital. And out of those 7 children are discharge from Bheri hospital and 2 children are discharge from Lumbini Provincial Hospital. • With the support of ACF 600 mothers are being trained on Family MUAC approach. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate to district health office, local governments and support agencies in the province for complete reporting of vitamin-A campaign. • Follow up to endorse nutrition in emergency response plans (COVID-19 and Monsoon) and TOR of H&N cluster. • Coordinate with local governments and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring. • Facilitate strongly to continue the NRH situated in all hospitals of province number one. • Follow safety precautions (family/mother MUAC) for the identification of the children age 6-59 months and bring the children age 6-59 months with SAM to OTC and NRH for the treatment. • Coordinate with concerned local governments and District Treasury Control Office (DTCO) to refund the unspent funds allocated for the training in Comprehensive Nutrition Specific Interventions (CNSI) and adolescent nutrition as well as ask local governments to submit the SOEs who have not yet submitted the SOEs and one pager report to FWD/DoHS/MoHP as soon as possible • Follow up and assess the nutrition commodities at district warehouse whether the commodities are available or not to meet the need of the target population in COVID-19 situation. |
| <p>Karnali province: Mr. Man Kumari Gurung, Senior Community Nursing Officer briefed the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and nutrition cluster formed and is functional. • Vitamin A campaign conducted successfully, and reports collected • UNICEF supported flyers and flexes with messages on child nutrition, maternal nutrition and management of malnutrition targeting COVID for BCC component and being widely distributed throughout the province. • PHSD has reviewed monsoon preparedness plan and shared with key stakeholders for feedback and comments prior to endorsement. • Nutrition BCC messages related to COVID-19 are been aired from different 14 FMs of the province covering all districts of the province with the support from UNICEF. • 86.004 mt Super Cereal distributed for 28,668 PLW and children 6 to 23 months in 128 health facilities of 5 Karnali districts during July 2020 with support from WFP (refer to monthly report for July 2020) • Jajarkot Landslide Assessment supported by WFP and disseminated amongst all key stakeholders, based on the assessment report in coordination with local Government, distribution plan for 774 households on both food and nutrition support (Rice, pulses, vegetable oil, salt, BP-5 High energy biscuits and fortified blended food) has been made, distribution of BP-5 has already been completed, distribution of other items due to start soon. • South Asian Infant Feeding Research Network-Nepal (SAIFRN) supported 2,692 PLW and children 6 to 23 months in Chingad and Barahatal Palikas of Surkhet district through distribution of relief | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate to district health office, local governments and support agencies in the province for complete reporting of vitamin-A campaign. • Follow up to endorse nutrition in emergency response plans (COVID-19 and Monsoon) and TOR of H&N cluster. • Coordinate with local governments and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring. • Facilitate strongly to continue the NRH situated in all hospitals of province number one. • Follow safety precautions (family/mother MUAC) for the identification of the children age 6-59 months and bring the children age 6-59 months with SAM to OTC and NRH for the treatment. • Coordinate with concerned local governments and District Treasury Control Office (DTCO) to refund the unspent funds allocated for the training in Comprehensive Nutrition Specific Interventions (CNSI) and adolescent nutrition as well as ask local governments to submit the SOEs who have not yet submitted the SOEs and one pager report to FWD/DoHS/MoHP as soon as possible • Follow up and assess the nutrition commodities at district warehouse whether the commodities are available or not to meet the need of the target population in COVID-19 situation. |

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| <p>materials such as soap, sarbottam pitho, mixed beans, surgical masks, IECs etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Suaahara, Continued tele counseling to HHs & PLWs. Till last week total 1,70,036 HHs and 74,590 PLWs counseled. continue radio messaging by 12 local FMs in 5 programme districts (Bhanchhin Aama & Hello Bhanchhin Aama), capacity development and update quarantine and regular health system related data, and 3 technical staff continued to provide technical support MoSD, Province Hosp. & Health Office Dailekh. • Save the Children supported 12 Palikas in programme districts aimed at improving RMNCHN and IEC materials on COVID – 19, nutrition messaging through radio in Jajarkot and Kalikot, and SSBH supported virtual orientation on RMNCH guideline with the provincial government and planned for orientation within province very soon, IEC/BCC and logistics support, limited in-kind support, radio messaging through FM stations, prepared “Epidemic, Disease control and Disaster Management Contingency Plan-2076” in Humla District and “relief materials handover guideline” in Mugu, conducted rapid assessment of all 79 Palikas • Preposition of nutrition commodities for monsoon preparedness are in place in all district warehouses. | |
| <p>Sudur Paschim province: Mr. Om Prakash Joshi, Public Health Officer and Mr. Min Raj Joshi Nutrition Focal Person Provincial Health Directorate of Sudurpaschim Province briefed the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation on Breast feeding context of COVID 19 Nursing staff of Mahakali Hospital supported by Suaahara • 77% coverage Vitamin A and Deworming Tablet is reported (this % may be increase) • Completed Celebration of word Breast feeding week in different level. • Increasing the no of SAM Case admits in NRH • With the support from UNICEF and SUA AHARA, nutrition BCC messages are been aired in three different languages (Nepali, Doteli and Tharu) regularly from different 42 Local FMs of the province covering all districts of the province. • This two-week total 18548,678 (Total 3,76,963 HHs) Households are counselled by SUA AHARA front line worker and 30 Health Facilities counselling done by SUA AHARA technical officers for support to reviving the services, sent push message to HHs, expert interview conducted and send message thorough social media about COVID-19 and Nutrition promotion. • UNICEF, MoFAGA-MSNP and SUA AHARA team regularly following up for nutrition program implementation. • Preposition of nutrition commodities for monsoon preparedness are in place in all district warehouses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate to district health office, local governments and support agencies in the province for complete reporting of vitamin-A campaign. • Follow up to endorse nutrition in emergency response plans (COVID-19 and Monsoon) and TOR of H&N cluster. • Coordinate with local governments and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring. • Facilitate strongly to continue the NRH situated in all hospitals of province number one. • Follow safety precautions (family/mother MUAC) for the identification of the children age 6-59 months and bring the children age 6-59 months with SAM to OTC and NRH for the treatment. • Coordinate with concerned local governments and District Treasury Control Office (DTCO) to refund the unspent funds allocated for the training in Comprehensive Nutrition Specific Interventions (CNSI) and adolescent nutrition as well as ask local governments to submit the SOEs who have not yet submitted the SOEs and one pager report to FWD/DoHS/MoHP as soon as possible • Follow up and assess the nutrition commodities at district warehouse whether the commodities are available or not to meet the need of the target population in COVID-19 situation. |
| <p>Briefing from Technical Working Groups</p> | |
| <p>IMAM Technical Working Group (TWG): On behalf of Sujay Nepali Bhattacharya lead of IMAM TWG, Ms. Manisha Katwal from ACF briefed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Came to know that BSFP interim guidance is already endorsed • Would like to request through this platform for Family MUAC operation guidance note for endorsement. After endorsement we do | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up with FWD for processing the guidance note of Family MUAC approach and SOP for BSFP • Develop exit strategy for BSFP as the program will go maximum for 2 or 3 months only |

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| <p>request BCC TWG for take away cards and videos to start the Family MUAC approach at community level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For piloting as ACF and SUSAHARA is interested. And IMAM TWG is planning to have organized a meeting for this. • With the support of Assessment TWG ToR of NRH was finalized. But for data collection and assessment we were unable to identify supporting partner and would like to request for nutrition cluster support on this. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work together with BCC TWG to develop a short video to train mothers for MUAC assessment, referral the SAM child to the OTC and follow up actions |
| <p>IYCF Technical Working Group (TWG):</p> <p>Ms. Bhim Pun from SUSAHARA chair of IYCF technical working group brief as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IYCF team supports and provide technical guidance on world breast feeding celebration. • Also, would like to request for IYCF joint statement endorsement. <p>Lesson learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing staff should be more capacitated/and counselled for three E's of breast-feeding counselling. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up to approve IYCF joint statement from MoHP • Coordination with BCC- TWG to develop standard on breastfeeding and Young Infant children feeding as planning by of BCC TWG • Ensure protection, promotion and support IYCF practices in affected population from monsoon floods and landslides. • Continue minoring the compliance of BMS |
| <p>Micronutrient Technical Working Group (TWG):</p> <p>on behalf of MN TWG especially focusing on Vitamin-A coverage we have contributed for reporting to Global Nutrition Cluster from Nepal National Nutrition Cluster.</p> <p>Prepare a draft document on Vitamin 'A' capsule distribution on 6-7 July 2020 in consultation with the NC- MN TWG members, UNICEF field office colleagues and UNICEF C4D colleagues and shared with colleagues. We are now working with the feedback received from different people.</p> <p>As adolescent Nutrition Guideline was requested by field colleagues, want to know about the actual status of the guideline because in Shrawan IFA distribution takes place.</p> <p>As Anemia is very high in women and children in Nepal (NDHS, 2016). In addition, within this covid context there can be high increase in anemia due to less consumption of micronutrient rich diet. There is a globally supporting team known as Biomarkers Reflecting Inflammation and Nutritional determinants of Anemia (BRINDA) and in Nepal CDC has been leading the group. In this context I would like to request guidance with nutrition cluster lead and co-lead for MN TWG to stay as a member in this BRINDA group which helps to support to reduce different micronutrient in different ways.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up for adolescent nutrition guideline to ensure its availability at municipalities in the context of COVID 19 • Identify the options to extend the services from Health Facilities to reach to adolescent girls living in community through mobilizing FCHVS. • Strengthen the SBCC messages through NHEICC to encourage adolescent girls aged 10-19 years to receive Weekly Iron folic acid table from the FCHVs living closely their houses. |
| <p>Information Management Technical Working Group (TWG):</p> <p>On behalf of Sangeeta Poudyal, chief of Information Management TWG</p> <p>As described by Mr. Binod Bindu Sharma, Health directorate of Gandaki Province, during any kind of disaster information management group plays vital role and within cluster we have established information management group which is a big achievement for nutrition program.</p> <p>For global nutrition cluster reporting midyear draft report has been prepared for global nutrition cluster and with the support of nutrition lead and co-lead we will soon finalize it.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare information management system for monsoon response • Coordinate M&E section of MoHP jointly with assessment TWG and develop common tools jointly with health and reproductive health cluster assessment tools |
| <p>Nutrition Assessment Technical Working Group (TWG)</p> <p>Discussed on the last meeting of nutrition assessment of about how to conduct SMART survey in this pandemic condition in complementary</p> | <p>Develop alternative model of nutrition survey to be fit in in this pandemic situation.</p> |

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| <p>with the global guidance. In the next cluster meeting, we will come with an approach to conduct smart survey in this condition.</p> <p>We are strongly supporting hand by hand to other TWG in the needed time.</p> | |
| <p>BCC Technical Working Group</p> <p>Mr. Sabina Hora member of BCC TWG brief as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. World Breastfeeding week being celebrated with PSAs being aired through 120 radio stations and special episode of Hello Bhanchhin Aama on breastfeeding where Nutrition Section Chief Mr. Kedar Parajuli was interviewed. 2. More than 200 minutes of radio messages on IYCF and breastfeeding aired from various radio stations in province 2, 5, Karnali and Sudurpaschim 3. Radio Programme on world breastfeeding week with Kedar Parajuli, chief Nutrition Section, FWD and Kalpana Tiwari. | <p>Develop Family MUAC video after endorsement of guidance note.</p> |
| <p>Remarks from Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Director General (DG) of Department of Health Services (DoHS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked to the nutrition cluster lead, co-lead, provincial directorates and representatives, all nutrition cluster members and all participants of the meeting for doing such a wonderful job in this situation. • The nutrition cluster meeting through Zoom is an example and will be a history to run the health and nutrition services during any pandemic condition. • Felt good to hear that nutrition cluster performed very well and good to hear about the successful of National Vitamin A Campaign despite of the threat of the pandemic ongoing. • As here all the directorate of health directorate are present and recently, I have visited province 2 and I feel now we are in middle of highest wave of this pandemic and I would like to request your strong support in this condition. During the visit I feel that Vulnerable population isolation and treatment is the outmost and through this cluster we can get support, channelized different mechanism to support those vulnerable groups of people. • He also appreciated to all for their hard work at all levels to address nutrition issues on COVID-19 context. He also requested to continue the existing system and initiate if any new interventions or strategy is there to improve health and nutrition services through this big platform. For this he also requested to go through the global recommendations, interventions and conceptualized based on the country. • Successful campaign of vitamin and world breast feeding week and would like to request this breast-feeding week will not be within a week and this campaign will be throughout the year. • He also promised to participate in every nutrition cluster meeting and be a part of it. And would like to thank for providing an opportunity to be a part of it. <p>In addition, Mr. Anirudra Sharma Gautam shared the recent data of lancet 2020 that in this pandemic condition wasting could rise by 14.3 in under 5 children. With this context when we analyze with MICS data additional 82,000 children could be wasted in Nepal in a year. He added that we all need to work effectively to address the issues of acute malnutrition in Nepal. He further explained that with the support of NPC and ministries there was a meeting held on 5 August 2020 among development partners, donors, MoHP and NPC to identify the resource options for leveraging resources to address nutrition issues in COVID-19 context. Mr. Sharma requested to Director General for his guidance and suggestion for leveraging the resources to address nutrition issues in COVID-19 context.</p> | |
| <p>Closing of the meeting and next nutrition cluster meeting</p> | |
| <p>Mr. Anirudra Sharma, the nutrition cluster co-lead and the meeting facilitator highlighted the action points as mentioned above and thanked to the Director General of Department of health Services Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Provincial Health Directors and provincial health team members, EDP chiefs and teams, Chief of Child health and immunization, chief of safe motherhood and neonatal health, team of FWD for a briefing on Breast Feeding week, representatives from different agencies and all participants of the meeting for their valuable presentations, participation and suggestions. During this time, Mr. Sharma requested to all cluster members to be attentive on the following things also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This season is the special time for increasing the caseload of SAM children everywhere. Therefore, we all need to be attentive to identify and treatment of the under five children with SAM • This is the season of Monsoon and floods and landslide may affect the people anywhere in the country. Therefore, we need to be ready for the nutrition response as needed. For this, we all need to review the prepositioning stocks at provincial as well as district warehouses • We need to analyse the caseload of NRH and OTCs and based on the caseload status the nutrition commodities (RUTF) need to supply to the OTCs and NRT | |

- Mr. Sharma further requested to all provincial cluster to send the information of world breast feeding week celebrated in all provinces
- He also added that the unspent funds and SOE of CNSI training and adolescent nutrition intervention need to send to DoHS from the concerned DTCO and Palikas and for this, he requested the support from the Provincial health Directorates also.
- He also appreciated the roles played by Mr. Kedar Parajuli, the Chief of Nutrition section of FWD/DoHS/MoHP and the chair of the meeting and Nutrition cluster lead for his excellent leadership and coordination for the management of nutrition in emergencies.

Finally, Mr. Sharma requested to Mr. Kedar Parajuli for his closing remarks. During closing remarks, Mr. Parajuli, highlighted the following points:

- I felt very happy and satisfaction that we could celebrate breastfeeding week as we have expected.
- We have already prepared the Monsoon preparedness plan in all provinces. I would like to make the clear that planning is not everything but need to think to implement as needed and help to protect the nutrition status of children and mothers.
- The cluster meeting needs to be considered as a forum to learn the lessons and move forward to address the issues of nutrition of the people in COVID-19 context. This is an opportunity to learn best experiences, strategies, mobilization of resources to make nutrition specific interventions more effective.
- He thanked to **Mr. Anirudra Sharma co-lead of Nutrition cluster** for his facilitation and coordination skills, all TWGs, Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, the Director General of DoHS, Chiefs of different sections of FWD, all participants attending in the cluster meeting, Provincial health Directors and provincial health team, Development partners including UN agencies, bi-lateral agencies, I/NGOs, NRH managers and representatives and all nutrition cluster members of Federal as well as provincial levels. different programmes as well as other invitees. He also announced that the next cluster meeting will be held on **Friday, 5th Bhadra 2077 (21st August 2020) from 11:00 to 13:00 hrs. via zoom link (weekly). The zoom link and agenda for next meeting will be shared as soon as possible.**

Annex 1: List of Participants in the meeting:

1. Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Director General of DoHS/MoHP
2. Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DOHS/MoHP –Nutrition cluster lead
3. Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF – Nutrition cluster co-lead
4. Dr. Jhalak Gautam, Chief of Child health and Immunization/FWD
5. Dr. Punya Poudyal, chief of safe motherhood/FWD
6. Mr. Chandra Dev Mehta, Health Directorate, Province 1
7. Mr. Harish Chand Shah, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 1
8. Mr. Harish Chand Shah, Provincial Health directorate, Province 2
9. Ms. Kalpana Pandey, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
10. Ms. Meena Mote, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
11. Mr. Harihar Prasad Sharma, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
12. Mr. Debendra Adhikari, Nutrition Specialist, USAID
13. Ms. Karan Courtney Haag, Chief Nutrition Programme, UNICEF
14. Ms. Dale Davis, Country Representative, HKI
15. Ms. Pooja Pandey Rana, Deputy Chief of the Party, Suahaara II/USAID
16. Mr. Naveen Poudyal, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
17. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Bhujel, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
18. Mr. Sanjay Rijal, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, UNICEF
19. Ms. Naomi Saville, Nutritionist, consultant to DFID and University College London nutrition researcher
20. Ms. Bhim Kumari Pun, Senior Manager, Suahaara II
21. Mr. Bhanu Bhakta Yangden, Provincial health Officer, WHO
22. Mr. Santosh Acharya, Programme Officer, UN Women
23. Mr. Jeevan Ghimire, Health policy Officer, DFID
24. Ms. Anju Adhikari, Nutrition officer, UNICEF/FWD
25. Mr. Indra Bhujel, Governance Expert, UNICEF
26. Ms. Astha Thapa, PHD, Province number 1
27. Ms. Sabina Hora, Nutrition and IEC Experts/HKI
28. Mr. Sujay Nepali Bhattacharya, Head of Health and Nutrition department, ACF
29. Ms. Manisha Katwal, Senior Program Officer, Health and Nutrition, ACF
30. Ms. Pabitra Sapkota MSNP Coordinator, Karnali Province
31. Mr. Deepak Thapa, NTAG
32. Ms. Preeti Subba, NTAG
33. Mr. Sandesh Adhikari, NTAG
34. Mr. Binod Kumar Aryal, Senior programme Manager, GHAN
35. Ms. Abhilasha Gurung, World Vision International
36. Ms. Sarita Yadav, NRH Birgunj
37. Ms. Rashmi Jha, NRH Rajbiraj
38. Mr. Nishant Acharya, Baglung NRH
39. Mr. Ngima T. Sherpa, Chairperson, HHESS
40. Ms. Aarju Hamal, Nutrition Officer, HHESS
41. Dr. Maureen Dariang, Lead Advisor, NHSSP
42. Ms. Nisha Singh, Knowledge Management Officer, Aasman Nepal
43. Mr. Phulgendra Prasad Singh, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
44. Ms. Sumi Maskey, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
45. Mr. Prakash Joshi, Nutrition Officer UNICEF
46. Ms. Bindu Panthi, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
47. Mr. Sudip Chiluwal, Program Coordinator, NEPEG
48. Mr. Nanda Adhikari, Coordinators, SDPC
49. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP, Karnali Province
50. Mr. Raj Nandan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, SAAHARA II /USAID
51. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal, Care Nepal
52. Mr. Lokendra Thapa, SAAHARA II /USAID

53. Mr. Yam GC, SUSAHARA II /USAID
54. Mr. Sunil Khatiwada, SUSAHARA II /USAID
55. Ms. Femila Sapkota, Nutrition Manager, SUSAHARA II /USAID
56. Mr. Krishna Prasad Lamsal, WFP/FWD
57. Narayan Satyal, Suaahara II/USAID, Dolakha
58. Mr. Rajendra Adhikari, Suaahara II/USAID, Surkhet
59. Mr. Bharat Sarma - Program Coordinator/Provincial Focal person Province-1, Suaahara II/USAID
60. Ms. Anita Thapa, Program Coordinator, Suaahara II/USAID
61. Ms. Sarita Dahal, UNFPA, Okhaldhunga
62. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal-program coordinator/provincial focal person, province-3, Suaahara II/USAID
63. Mr. Raj Kumar Mahato, World Health Organization, Provincial Health Officer, Bagamati Province
64. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator- Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
65. Mr. Lokendra Thapa SUSAHARA II/USAID Program Coordinator, Sudurpaschim Province
66. Ms. Puja Chand Dadeldhura NRH, Program Manager.
67. Ms. Prabha Singh, Surkhet NRH
68. Ms. Indra Bhatta, Kanchanpur NRH
69. Ms. Sunita Rimal, NYF, Kathmandu
70. Mr. Binod Kumar Aryal, GHAN
71. Ms. Chhamkala Kafle program manager (Bharatpur NRH)
72. Ms. Kusum K. C. NRH coordinator from Dailekh
73. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Welthungerhilfe
74. Ms. Gita Bista, NRH Kailali
75. Ms. Nisha Sharma, HKI
76. Mr. Kuber Prasad Adhikari, Health Nutrition and WASH lead, WVI
77. Ms. Babita Adhikari, HKI, ARCH
78. Ms. Nirmala Bhandari

19th Meeting of National Nutrition Cluster (07 August 2020)

Briefing from nutrition cluster lead:

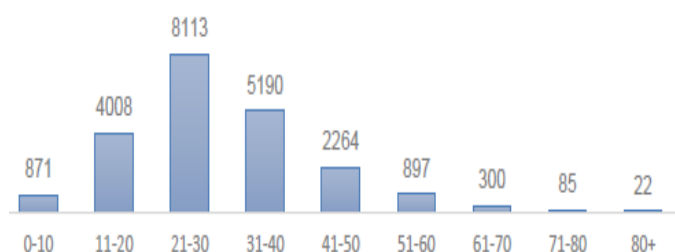
1. Situation of COVID-19:

| Indicators | Global Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic | | Global Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic | |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| | 31 July 2020 | 07 August 2020 | 31 July 2020 | 07 August 2020 |
| Number COVID-19 positive cases | 16,523,815 | | 19,547 | 21750 |
| Number of deaths | 655,112 | | 52 (0.27%) | 65 |
| Number of Cured | 10,783,029 | | 14,021 (72.9%) | 15,389 |
| Number of PCR tested | | | 364,648 | 419,575 |
| Number of RDT tested | | | 312,402 | NA |
| Number people in quarantine camps | | | 13,201 | 9470 |
| Number COVID-19 cases in the isolation | | | 5,246 | 6296 |
| Number of cases in ICU and Ventilators | | | NA | 66 |
| Number of districts where no COVID-19 cases these days | | | 72 | 71 |

Note:

- COVID-19 positive rate: 5.2%
- Case fatality rate: 0.3%
- Total deaths/million: 1.9
- Number of districts free from COVID-19: 6 (Khotang, Dhankuta, Sankhuwasabha, Manang, Mustang and Rukum (west))

Age group wise distribution of COVID-19 Cases



COVID-19 Summary (Last 24 hours)

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Total RT-PCR Test done | 6622 |
| Recovered | 233 |
| Deaths | 5 |
| Confirmed Cases | 360 |

2. Major Progress made after last nutrition cluster meeting:

- Generated the report from HMIS of national Vitamin A campaign and found that the total coverage of national Vitamin A campaign: 86%; and still to include the data from some local governments.
- Initiated distribution of Supercereal in Province number 2
- Celebrated World Breast Feeding Week from 1-7 August 2020 with weekly programme nationwide with following programme:
 - Press meets.

- Monitoring public hospitals.
- Interview in the public media (NTV/FM radio services by senior officials of MoHP).
- Messaging the importance of breast feeding and World Breast Feeding Week (WBFW) through public media and social media also.
- Visited different places for monitoring the celebration of WBFW
- Organized a meeting among Donors and development partners on 5 August 2020 by the national Planning commission (NPC) to advocate for leveraging the resources for nutrition in emergency response
- DoHS approved the Special Operating Procedures (SOP) of Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP)

Apart from above mentioned progress in a week, following progress has been made by the nutrition cluster nationwide:

| SN | Indicators | Total | | Total so far |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------|--------------|
| | | Until last week | This week | |
| Treatment of Severe acute malnutrition | | | | |
| 1. | Number of Functioning NRH | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| 2. | Number of Functioning OTCs | 591 | 591 | 591 |
| 3. | Treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition in last 7 months | 2,824 | 33 | 2,857 |
| 4. | Number of caregivers of SAM children followed up via telephone or other means of follow ups | 408 | 4 | 412 |
| Prevention of acute malnutrition | | | | |
| 5. | Number of 6-23 months children received Supercereal plus in five Karnali districts | 84,290 | 18,757 | 103,047 |
| 6. | Number of PLWs received Supercereal plus in five Karnali districts | 50,059 | 11,180 | 61,239 |
| 7. | Golden1000Days HHS receiving relief package from local government | 70,841 | 660 | 71,501 |
| Micro-nutrient interventions | | | | |
| 8. | Coverage of Vitamin A supplementation in the areas of measles outbreak | - | - | 15,359 |
| 9. | Coverage of Deworming in the areas of measles outbreak with Vitamin A supplementation | - | - | 28,929 |
| Behaviour change communication on nutrition | | | | |
| 10. | HHS reached with radio messages on nutrition | 885,910 | 154,002 | 1,039,912 |
| 11. | HH reached with SMS with IYCF messages | 2,896,201 | 70,773 | 2,966,974 |
| 12. | Number of Pregnant & lactating women reach SMS with IYCF messages | 728,328 | 2,301 | 730,629 |
| 13. | Number of HHs reached counselled with telephone | 1,678,958 | 69,691 | 1,748,649 |
| 14. | Number of PLWs counselled via telephone | 469,276 | 36,654 | 505,930 |
| 15. | Number of FM radio disseminated nutrition messages | 207 | 207 | 207 |

3. Way forward/next steps:

- A follow up statement of the meeting among Donors and development partners will be prepared jointly by NPC and MoHP and disseminated to concerned authorities, Donors and Development partners soon.
- Implementation of blanket supplementary feeding programme will be started in province number 2 from next week supported by WFP
- Initiated approval process of the Concept notes for the implementation of Family MUAC approach and joint statement of IYCF

4. Challenges

- Increased number of COVID-19 cases is a warning of the lives of the people
- Screening children continues to be a challenge in the COVID-19 context making it difficult to identify SAM children for treatment.
- Big gaps for blanket supplementary feeding programme