

22nd NATIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING Via ZOOM LINK

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

FRIDAY, 2nd Ashoj 2077 (18th September, 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 22nd 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 120 plus people from different organizations were invited out of which 80 plus attended via zoom link.

AGENDA FOR NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING

Time	Agenda Items
11:00 AM To 01:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair of the meeting, welcome, and sharing of meeting agenda and major update by Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, Cluster-lead• Updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors) – major briefs/key achievements, key issues and way forwards/action points• Updates from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups (IMAM, IYCF, BCC, Micro-nutrient, Information Management, Assessment),• Update of Nutrition guideline in the context of COVID-19• Remarks: Shaligram Bhusal, undersecretary, from Ministry of education, science and technology• Remarks: Director-General, Department of Health Services/MoHP• 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

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.

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.

This was the 22nd virtual nutrition cluster meeting after COVID-19 Global Pandemic disease (COVID 19) arise. In this meeting, altogether 80 plus participants attended (see annex 1 for detail of the participants).

Agenda 2: Progress update from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD directors) focusing on nutrition service continuity and monitoring on ongoing nutrition services.

The Directors from Province 1, Province 2, Bagmati province and Karnali province and representatives from province Gandaki province, Province 5 and Sudur Paschim province presented the progress made by the nutrition clusters in the concerned provinces including the major highlights, achievements, issues and challenges and way forward. The names of the presenters are as follows:

- Mr. Aditya Shakya, Public Health Officer from Provincial health Directorate of Province 1
- Mr. Vijay Jha, Director, Provincial Health Directorate of Province 2
- Mr. Ramesh Adhikari, Director, Provincial Health Directorate of Bagmati Province
- Mr. Nanibabu Dani, Nutrition Focal Person, Provincial Health Directorate of Gandaki Province
- Ms. Dibya Manandhar Rijal, Nutrition Officer of UNICEF Field Office for Province 5
- Dr. Rabin Khadka, Director, Provincial Health Directorate of Karnali Province
- Mr. Min Raj Joshi, Nutrition Focal Person, Provincial health Directorate of Sudurpaschim Province

The action points:

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- Collect and present the information of the under five years children with Severe Acute Malnourished and the information of Pregnant and Lactating suffering from COVID-19.
- Update the stock of nutrition commodities available in different provinces and submit the plan of required RUTF, MNP, Vitamin-A, albendazole and other nutrition commodities as needed. Also, analyse the utilization and beneficiaries of nutrition supplies as well.
- Endorse nutrition in emergency response plan (COVID-19 and monsoon) from MoSD as soon as possible
- Revisit prepositioning of nutrition commodities at provincial and district levels
- Continue health and nutrition cluster meeting as in regular basis
- Continue follow up service monitoring of nutrition programme
- Follow safety precautions for the identification of under five years children with SAM bring these children to OTC and NRH for the treatment wherever relevant.
- Continue health and nutrition cluster meeting at all provinces.
- 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.

Note: The presentation from provincial nutrition cluster has been forwarded with this minute.

Agenda 3: Briefing from Nutrition cluster technical working groups (TWG):

The chairpersons of Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Group briefed the progress made by the TWG. The name of the presenters are as follows:

Mr. Manisha Katwal, IMAM TWG
 Ms. Bhim Kumari Pun, IYCF TWG
 Mr. Naveen Poudyal, MN TWG
 Ms. Sangeeta Poudyal, IM TWG
 Mr. Sanjay Rijal, Assessment TWG

The major action points of TWGs are as follows:

- Plan a policy level meeting with team of MoHP for feedback, recommendation and suggestion for FAMILY MUAC approach for implementation.
- Provide Adolescent Nutrition Guideline, 2077 to all the people at provincial and local level for implementation of adolescent nutrition program.
- Request for approval of Standardized Monitoring and Assessment in Relief and Transition (SMART) Methodology 2020 which is already endorsed by the Nutrition Cluster.

Recommendation: As proposed by MN technical working group, the next round Vitamin A campaign will be implemented throughout the country on 11 and 12 Magsir 2077 (26 and 27 November 2020).

Note: The briefing of TWG has been forwarded with this minute.

Other activities:

Mr. Krishna Prasad Lamsal of Family Welfare Division/ World Food Program Shared the overview of national Nutrition guideline which was prepared for COVID-19 positive cases and endorsed by MOHP which was recommended by nutrition cluster from last meeting. He also shared that FWD is working on preparation of Nutritious Menu for lunch based on RDA of ICMR.

Action point: FWD/DoHS/MoHP to share the approved guideline to all nutrition cluster members and provincial nutrition cluster to share this guideline to all concerned authorities and local governments.

Remarks from Mr. Shalik Ram Bhusal MoEST, section Chief/deputy director and Focal person of ECD:

Mr. Bhusal thanked to all the nutrition cluster lead, co-lead and team for making a part of nutrition cluster. He shared that the nutrition team of FWD will be consulted for the preparation of the guideline by MOEST and share with the team of FWD and nutrition cluster members. Mr. Bhusal expects that he will be attending the nutrition cluster meeting as regular basis.

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Remarks from Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Director General of DoHS/MoHP:

Dr Dipendra apology that he must attend other zoom meetings also therefore unable to attend full time in nutrition cluster meeting. He thanked to all for making nutrition cluster a big platform for nutrition interventions in this country during COVID-19 context. He further appreciated to nutrition section and nutrition cluster for the ongoing activities as well as development of the nutrition guideline for COVID-19 patient, preparation and specification finalization of nutrition commodities for the procurement in running fiscal year. He told that nutrition cluster had made a remarkable achievement and support up to implementation level.

Closing of the meeting:

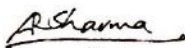
At the end of the meeting, Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chair of the cluster meeting and federal level nutrition cluster lead heightened the following points:

- Mr. Parajuli thanked to DG for his guidance and leadership as well as regular presence in the nutrition cluster meeting.
- He thanked to and appreciated the facilitation skills of Mr. Anirudra Sharma, nutrition cluster co-lead
- He appreciated to all provincial health Directors, federal and provincial nutrition cluster team members and also further highlighted the worked done by PHD Directors and their team who have been working very actively and the nutrition and health services are also ongoing in this COVID-19 situation.
- He added that ass requested by some of the provinces, Nutrition commodities and capacity building for different nutrition interventions will be managed as soon as possible.
- He also thanks to all the team for making nutrition program more effective and action oriented.

At the same time, he also announced that the next nutrition cluster meeting will be held on Ashwin 16, 2nd October 2020 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM via Zoom link.

Signed by the Co-Chair of the Nutrition Cluster Meeting:

Signed by the Chair of the Nutrition Cluster Meeting:



Mr. Anirudra Sharma
Co-lead, National Nutrition Cluster
2nd Aswin 2077 (18th September 2020)
From: United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF)



Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli
Lead, national Nutrition Cluster
2nd Aswin 2077 (18th September 2020)
From: Government of Nepal (GoN)



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. Mr. Aditya Shakya, Public Health Officer of Province 1
5. Mr. Bijay Jha, Provincial Health directorate, Province 2
6. Mr. Ramesh Adhikari, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 3
7. Mr. Nanibabu Dani, Provincial Health Directorate, Gandaki Province
8. Dr. Rabin Khadka, Provincial Health Directorate of Karnali Province
9. Mr. Min Raj Joshi, Provincial Health Directorate, Sudurpaschim Province
10. Mr. Shalikram Bhusal, MoEST, section Chief/deputy director and Focal person of ECD
11. Mr. Man Bahadur Basnet, MoHP, GoN Suraj Kumar Sharma, PG, Dang
12. Ms. Kalpana Pandey, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
13. Ms. Meena Mote, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
14. Mr. Harihar Prasad Sharma, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
15. Ms. Sushila Aryal, MoEST
16. Ms. Karan Courtney Haag, Chief Nutrition Programme, UNICEF
17. Mr. Debendra Adhikari, Nutrition Specialist, USAID
18. Ms. Dale Davis, Country Representative, HKI
19. Ms. Pooja Pandey Rana, Deputy Chief of the Party, Suahaara II/USAID
20. Mr. Naveen Poudyal, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
21. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Bhujel, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
22. Mr. Sanjay Rijal, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, UNICEF
23. Ms. Naomi Saville, Nutritionist, consultant to DFID and University College London nutrition researcher
24. Mr. Bhanu Bhakta Yangden, Provincial health Officer, WHO
25. Mr. Santosh Acharya, Programme Officer, UN Women
26. Mr. Jeevan Ghimire, Health policy Officer, DFID
27. Ms. Anju Adhikari, Nutrition officer, UNICEF/FWD
28. Ms. Anju Acharya, MSNP Expert, UNICEF/NPC
29. Mr. Indra Bhujel, Governance Expert, UNICEF
30. Ms. Sabina Hora, Nutrition and IEC Experts/HKI
31. Mr. Sujay Nepali Bhattacharya, Head of Health and Nutrition department, ACF
32. Ms. Manisha Katwal, Senior Program Officer, Health and Nutrition, ACF
33. Ms. Pabitra Sapkota MSNP Coordinator, Karnali Province
34. Mr. Deepak Thapa, NTAG
35. Ms. Preeti Subba, NTAG
36. Mr. Sandesh Adhikari, NTAG
37. Mr. Binod Kumar Aryal, Senior programme Manager, GHAN
38. Ms. Abhilasha Gurung, World Vision International
39. Ms. Sarita Yadav, NRH Birgunj
40. Ms. Rashmi Jha, NRH Rajbiraj
41. Mr. Nishant Acharya, Baglung NRH
42. Mr. Ngima T. Sherpa, Chairperson, HHES
43. Ms. Aarju Hamal, Nutrition Officer, HHES
44. Dr. Maureen Dariang, Lead Advisor, NHSSP
45. Ms. Nisha Singh, Knowledge Management Officer, Aasman Nepal
46. Ms. Meena Thapa, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
47. Ms. Dibya Manandhar Rijal, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
48. Mr. Phulgendra Prasad Singh, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
49. Ms. Sumi Maskey, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
50. Mr. Prakash Joshi, Nutrition Officer UNICEF

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51. Ms. Bindu Panthi, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
52. Mr. Sudip Chiluwal, Program Coordinator, NEPHEG
53. Mr. Nanda Adhikari, Coordinators, SDPC
54. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP, Karnali Province
55. Mr. Raj Nandan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, SAAHARA II /USAID
56. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal, Care Nepal
57. Mr. Lokendra Thapa, SAAHARA II /USAID
58. Mr. Yam GC, SAAHARA II /USAID
59. Mr. Sunil Khatiwada, SAAHARA II /USAID
60. Mr. Krishna Prasad Lamsal, WFP/FWD
61. Narayan Satyal, Suaahara II/USAID, Dolakha
62. Mr. Rajendra Adhikari, Suaahara II/USAID, Surkhet
63. Mr. Bharat Sarma - Program Coordinator/Provincial Focal person Province-1, Suaahara II/USAID
64. Ms. Anita Thapa, Program Coordinator, Suaahara II/USAID
65. Ms. Sarita Dahal, UNFPA, Okhaldhunga
66. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal-program coordinator/provincial focal person, province-3, Suaahara II/USAID
67. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator- Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
68. Mr. Lokendra Thapa SAAHARA II/USAID Program Coordinator, Sudurpaschim Province
69. Mr. Binod Kumar Aryal, GHAN
70. Mr. Kuber Prasad Adhikari, Health Nutrition and WASH lead, WVI
71. Mr. Mohan Bhusal, World Vision International
72. Mr. Subash Shrestha, Save the children, Province 5
73. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator-Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Nepal
74. Mr. Sanjeela Gandhari, UNICEF Nepalgunj field office, Trainee
75. Dr. Himanshu - R.P Helen Keller International Suaahara-II Bagmati Province
76. Mr. Laxmi Prasad Chaudhary, WFP Province 1, Biratnagar
77. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma, Program Coordinator, Dang
78. Mr. Indra Auji, SP-II Dailekh, Program Coordinator
79. Mr., Sushanta Buddhacharya, World Vision
80. Ms. Sangita Khatri, Save the Children
81. Ms. Nisha Sharma, HKI
82. Mr. Chandan Rouniyar, UNICEF Janakpur field office Trainee
83. Mr. Dirgha Gandhari, Program Coordinator, USAID/Suaahara (HKI)
84. Mr. Nitesh Shrestha, Suaahara II
85. Mr. Niraj KC, Helen Keller International-SAAHARA II
86. Mr. Rajan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, USAID/Suaahara II
87. Ms. Man Kumari Gurung from Health service Directorate, Surkhet

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Annex 1: Situation briefing from nutrition cluster lead (as of 03 September 2020):

Indicators	Global Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic		National Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic	
	03 September	17 September	03 September	17 September
Number COVID-19 positive cases	26,198,904	30,065,092	42,877	59,573
Number of deaths among the positive cases	867,765 (3.3%)	945,578 (3.2%)	257 (0.6%)	383 (0.6%)
Number of Recovered	18,458,948 (70.5%)	21,821,770 (72.6%)	24,207 (56.5%)	42,949 (72.1%)
Number of PCR tested			731,852	882,915
Number people in quarantine camps			6,749	7,883
Number COVID-19 cases in the isolation		7,297,744 (24.3%)	18,413	16,241 (27.3%)
Number of cases in ICU and Ventilators			158 (17 in ventilator)	212 (39 in ventilator)
Number of districts where no COVID-19 cases these days			6 districts (Tapejung, Solukhumbu, Mustang, Mugu, Dolpa and Humla)	5 districts (Solukhumbu, Mustang, Mugu, Dolpa and Humla)

1. Major Progress made after last nutrition cluster meeting:

- Nutrition cluster developed interim guidance notes on IMAM, IYCF, NIS, SOP for BSFP and disseminated to all relevant health facilities.
- Developed nutrition guideline targeting to different 9 groups of COVID-19 positive cases and now on the process of endorsement from MoHP
- Prepared COVID-19 response plan and monsoon response plan at federal and 7 provinces.
- Ongoing distribution of Supercereal (blanket supplementary feeding programme) in five districts in Karnali, 4 districts of Province 2 and Solukhumbu districts. So far, 142,138 children aged 6-23 months and 84,839 pregnant and lactating women received Super cereal.
- Ongoing transportation of 65 MT Supercereal to Bagamati province, Gandaki province, province five and Sudur Paschim province
- 619 OTCs (out of 718) and 18 NRH (out of 21) are functional and from these centres 4,359 children with SAM were treated using Ready to Use therapeutic food. 152 SAM cases were admitted to the outpatient treatment programmes in the last week.
- Initiated process to revise BMS act 2049 and revised draft has been prepared and endorsed from Breast Feeding Promotion and Protection Sub-committee and recommended to Breast Feeding Protection and Promotion Committee to the MoHP
- Initiated to develop NRH guideline, consultant identified, outline prepared and proposed in the joint meeting of facilitators group and technical committee
- Finalizing the revised version of IMAM guideline and five years costed action plan.

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Total progress data sheet of nutrition cluster (as of 17 September 2020):

Nutrition Interventions (as of 17 September 2020):				
SN	Indicators	Total		Total so far
		Until last week	This week	
Treatment of Severe acute malnutrition				
1	Number of NRH in the Province	21	21	21
2	Number of Functioning NRH	18	18	18
3	Admission of SAM in the NRHs (Poush 2076 onwards)	1,486	42	1,528
4	Number of OTCs in the province	718	718	718
5	Number of Functioning OTCs	616	617	617
6	Admission of SAM in the OTCs (Poush 2076 onwards)	2,721	110	2,831
7	Admission of SAM in OTC and NRH (Poush 2076 onwards)	4,207	152	4,359
8	Number of caregivers of SAM children followed up via telephone or other means of follow ups	974	73	1,047
Prevention of acute malnutrition				
9	Number of 6-23 months children received Supercereal plus	141,347	791	142,138
10	Number of PLWs received Supercereal plus	84,839	-	84,839
11	Total PLWs and 6-23 months children received Supercereal	226,186	791	226,977
12	Golden 1000 Days HHS receiving relief package from local government	138,525	-	138,525
Behaviour change communication on nutrition				
13	HHS reached with radio messages on nutrition	2,198,200	107,310	2,305,510
14	HH reached with SMS with IYCF messages	1,907,407	-	1,907,407
15	Number of Pregnant & lactating women reach SMS with IYCF messages	670,865	388	671,253
16	Number of HHS reached counselled with telephone	1,688,162	97,662	1,785,824
17	Number of PLWs counselled via telephone	742,093	43,306	785,399
18	Number of FM radio disseminated nutrition messages	193	193	193

2. Challenges

- Resource gaps of supplementary feeding for the prevention of acute malnutrition of 6-59 months children, pregnant and lactating women.
- Nutrition supplements to the children and PLWs in the isolated COVID-19 cases
- The lockdown and curfew imposed in many districts where there are more COVID-19 cases affects the utilization of essential health and nutrition services.
- There are difficulties and constraints to screen, identify and refer children aged 6-59 months who are severely wasted for treatment at Outpatient Therapeutic Centers (OTC).

3. Way forward/next steps:

- Advocacy for leveraging of the resources for supplementary feeding programme
- Organize a policy level meeting among Director FWD, DG of DoHS, Head of Planning and Coordination Divisions of MoHP on Family MUAC approach.
- Endorsement of nutrition guideline for COVID-19 positive cases
- Amendment of BMS act
- Endorsement of Nutrition Assessment Guideline (SMART survey)
- Continuation of ongoing nutrition service

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