

Virtual Twenty Fourth Health Cluster Coordination Meeting
Kathmandu, Nepal
17 September 2020 -THURSDAY (2:00 – 3:00 pm)

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Jageshwor Gautam, Lead of the Health Cluster and co-chaired by Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk, Co-lead of the Health Cluster. More than 60 health partners participated in the meeting virtually. Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk facilitated the meeting.

Agenda for #24 Health Cluster Coordination Meeting, 17 September 2020

Agenda Item	Responsible	Time
Welcome and Update	Dr. Jageshwor Gautam, Chair-Health Cluster	14:00-14:05
COVID-19 Epidemiological Situation Update	Dr. Basu Dev Pandey, Director, EDCD	14:05-14:20
Logistics readiness for COVID & monsoon response	Dr. Ramesh Kharel, Director, Management Division	14:20-14:25
Follow-up action points and brief updates from partners	Dr. Lungten Wangchuk, Co-chair, WHO	14:25-14:30
COVID-19 Response support from UNFPA	Dr. Hashina Begum, Deputy Representative, UNFPA	14:30-14:40
Discussions/Questions	All	14:40-14:45
Summary of the meeting	Dr. Lungten Wangchuk, Co-chair	14:45-14:50
Comments/Answers to the questions	Advisors/Chair	14:50-14:55
Conclusion and closing	Dr. Jageshwor Gautam, Chair-Health Cluster	14:55-15:00

Synopsis of the meeting

Dr. Gautam welcomed all participants to the meeting and provided brief updates of COVID-19 management. He also shared the recent decisions:

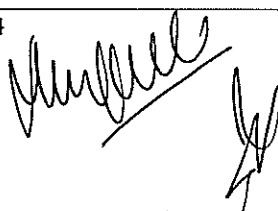
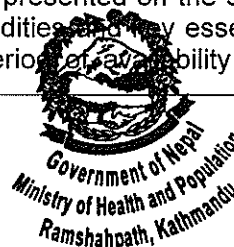
- RT-PCR test cost is reduced to NPR 2,000 (all inclusive)
- Frontline health care workers, other frontline personnel and contact tracing teams to be given priority for RT-PCR testing
- Orientation provided to all isolation centers and COVID hospitals for proper recording and reporting the COVID cases daily in HMIS. MOHP to provide reimbursement only based on HMIS reporting

As of 16 September 2020
 Total PCR sites: **47** (reporting laboratories)
 Total PCR tests done: **872,274**
 Total PCR positive: **58,327**
 Total active cases: **16,242** (27.9%)
 Total discharged: **41,706** (71.5%)
 Deaths: **379** (0.6%)
 Total isolation beds: **17,958**
 Total quarantine beds: **91,473**
 Total people in quarantine: **7,820**

He requested partners to continue support in proper application of Public Health Measures, case investigation and contact tracing, infection prevention and control, expansion of isolation facilities at hub hospitals and operationalization of Point of Entry (PoE) health desk at designated entry points.

Dr. Basu Dev Pandey, Director, Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD), provided the epidemiological updates of COVID-19. He informed that 4 districts (Humla, Dolpa, Mustang, Mugu) did not report any cases in past 14 days, he told that Gandaki Province had sporadic cases with all other provinces having cluster of cases. He further added that the mortality is higher among older age group with majority of death cases having comorbid conditions. He also shared the trend of cases in Kathmandu valley.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar Kharel, Director, Management Division (MD), presented on the status of stocks, gaps, requirements and procurement plans for COVID-19 commodities and essential medicines and vaccines. He provided the national stock and projected period of availability as per current

utilization rate. He also informed that 5,000 vials of Remdesivir had been received of which 2610 vials had already been distributed to 28 hospitals. We have processed for the procurement of ICU medicines and consumables.

Dr. Lungten, then provided short updates on distribution of COVID cases, expansion of laboratories and trend of PCR testing and COVID cases in Nepal, provided a comparison of COVID 19 cases in different WHO Regions. She then updated that the mental health sub-cluster updates. The MH sub cluster had met with honourable Prime Minister and submitted a five-year National Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan for endorsement. MH sub-cluster proactively engaged in awareness creation via MoHP's press briefings. She also informed that the sub cluster launched a website to support health care providers to take care of their mental health status and launched two suicide prevention helplines (1166 operationalized by Mental Hospital, Lagankhel and 1660-01-21600 operated by TUTH with support from CBM) on 10th September (International Suicide Prevention Day). The sub-cluster has been continuously involved in risk communication/community awareness, mental health and psychosocial support provision, child mental health services provision, distribution of psychotropic medicines, residential treatment for homeless women with mental health problems, webinar on prevention and intervention of suicide for MHPSS service providers, and health/social/legal referrals.

Dr. Hasina Begum, Deputy Representative, UNFPA then presented on UNFPA's support in COVID-19 response. As a sub-cluster co-lead UNFPA is coordinating with partners for providing support in reproductive, maternal, new born and child health in Nepal. They provided support in continuation of services, Gender Based Violence and Protection areas in close coordination with protection cluster. UNFPA provided support in risk communication; distribution of RH kits, dignity kits, Kishori kits, PPE, IPC and FP commodities. UNFPA also conducted two rounds of rapid assessment on situation analysis of MNH and SRH services with an assessment of impact of COVID-19 pandemic.


Before opening the floor for discussion, Dr. Lungten requested all partners to fill the online 3W form of partners support for COVID-19 & monsoon response. Every alternate week, data will be extracted to submit to MOHP and UNRCO. Dr. Gautam informed that the price of NRs 2,000 inclusive of all expenses was fixed for public and private laboratories but with the valid justifications, the private sector could increase the price. Dr. Basudev Pandey informed that EDCD has information on COVID-19 positive health care service providers and added that even cases are from hospitals within Kathmandu valley. Regarding query on supply of PPE, Dr. Kharel informed that the PPE has been supplied to isolation centres and COVID-19 hospitals as positive cases are high there, followed by quarantine sites.

Dr. Gautam before concluding the meeting thanked all the participants and presenters and requested all to work in coordination and collaboration to achieve a common goal of combating COVID-19.

Decision/Action points:

- Help in application of Public Health Standards (SMS)
- Provide comprehensive and coordinated response support in risk communication and community engagement
- Support on expansion of isolation facilities at hub hospitals
- Support in operationalization of health desk at point of entry
- Support for COVID-19 and monsoon response through one door mechanism

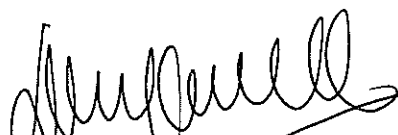
Signed by the Chair:



Dr Jageshwor Gautam
Chair/Lead

20 September 2020





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