

24th NATIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING Via ZOOM LINK

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

FRIDAY, 30th Ashoj 2077 (16th October, 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 24th 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 68 plus attended via zoom link.

AGENDA FOR NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING

Time	Agenda Items
11:00 AM	<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 from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors) – major briefs/key achievements, key issues and way forwards/action points
To	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups (IMAM, IYCF, BCC, IM, MN, Assessment)
01:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remarks from Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST)• Remarks with 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 24th virtual nutrition cluster meeting after COVID-19 Global Pandemic disease (COVID 19) arise. In this meeting, altogether 68 plus participants attended (see annex 1 for detail of the participants).

Agenda 2: Progress update from Provincial Nutrition Cluster Lead focusing on nutrition service continuity and monitoring of ongoing nutrition services.

The representative from Province 1, Province 2, Bagmati Province, Gandaki Province, Province 5, Karnali Province and Sudurpaschim Province presented the progress made by the nutrition cluster in the concerned provinces including major highlights, achievements, issues, challenges and way forward. The name of the presenters are as follows:

- Mr. Subash Gautam, SAAHARA-II, on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate of Province 1
- Mr. Vijay Jha, Director, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2
- Mr. Shambhu Kafle, Public Health Officer, provincial Health Directorate, Bagmati Province
- Mr. Yam GC, SAAHARA-II, on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate of Gandaki Province
- Mr. Kaushal Bhandari, Nutrition Focal Person, Provincial Health Directorate, Lumbini Province
- Mr. Man Kumari Gurung, Community Nursing Officer, Provincial Health Directorate, Karnali Province
- Mr. Lokendra Thapa, SAAHARA-II, on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate of Sudurpaschim Province

Action points:

- Reactivate outpatient therapeutic centers of Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari and Okhaldhunga districts of Province 1, all districts of Bagamati Province, Gorkha, Baglung and Myagdi districts of Gandaki Province.
- Increase number of OTCs in Baglung district since the district is very big and only one OTC has been established in Baglung district.

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- Identify the 6-59 months children with SAM through screening by using IPC measures and refer to OTC and NRH for treatment.
- Collect, compile and report the information of Severe Acute Malnourished Children, Pregnant and Lactating women suffering from COVID-19.
- FWD to coordinate with Central Medical Store (CMS) for the transportation of nutrition commodities to PLMC as per the request received from the provinces.
- Organize CNSI TOT in Karnali Province as soon as possible.
- Endorse nutrition in emergency response plan (COVID-19 and monsoon) from MoSD as soon as possible.
- Continue health and nutrition cluster meeting as in regular basis
- Continue follow up service monitoring of nutrition programme
- Requested to submit the report of Supercereal distribution in next cluster meeting from concerned Provinces. As needed, Provincial Health Directorate jointly with concerned district office to re-plan the Supercereal distribution plan and initiate distribution of Supercereal.
- 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

Agenda 3: Briefing from each Technical Working Group (TWG):

Following people from Nutrition cluster TWGs such as; Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) TWG, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) TWG, Micronutrient (MN), TWG, Behavior Change Communication (BCC) TWG, Information Management (IM) TWG, Nutrition Assessment TWG presented the progress made during past two weeks. The presentations or notes are attached here with:

Names of presenters:

Mr. Sujay Nepali Bhattacharya, IMAM TWG
 Mr. Bhim Kumari Pun, IYCF TWG
 Mr. Naveen Poudyal, MN TWG
 Mr. Kunja joshi, BCC TWG
 Ms. Sangeeta Poudyal, IM TWG
 Mr. Sanjay Rijal, NA TWG

The major action points for TWGs are as follows:

- Provide Adolescent Nutrition Guideline, 2077 to all participants at provincial and local levels for implementation of adolescent nutrition program and based on MN TWG will prepare an interim guideline during COVID-19 situation.
- Follow up of transportation and preparation process for next round national Vitamin A campaign
- Review TORs of TWG and avoid duplication and overlapped tasks and send to nutrition cluster lead and co-lead.
- Province 2 has allocated NPR 1,600,000 for Nutrition Survey and chair of assessment TWG requested for approval of Standardized Monitoring and Assessment in Relief and Transition (SMART) Methodology 2020 which has already been endorsed by the Nutrition Cluster to support on allocated budget by Province for Nutrition Survey.

Agenda 4: Briefing from Mr. Shaligram Bhusal, MoEST Section chief/Deputy Director and focal person of ECD

- Mr. Bhusal thanked to all participants of nutrition cluster meeting and told that he is in this meeting for last six months and got an opportunity to learn many things from the cluster meeting.
- He informed that 7 billion and 530 million Nepal Rupees has been allocated for school health and nutrition program focusing to the children less than 5 years. To make this program more effective, there will be a provision of a committee at local level integrating with schools for this programme.
- He also added that ESC section of MoEST has been working to update the guideline with the support from different sectors. He gave a brief update about the guideline and its development process also.
- Mr Bhusal further added that MOEST and MOHP have very good policy coordination at federal level. However, such coordination should be strengthened at provincial and local levels for programme interventions. He has requested MoHP to facilitate jointly with MoEST for programme integration up to the local level also.



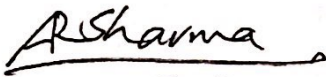

Agenda 5: Closing of the meeting:

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Anirudra Sharma, federal level nutrition cluster co-lead and meeting facilitator appreciated the leadership of Mr. Kedar Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MoHP and thanked to all participants in the meeting with Dashai greetings. He has highlighted the action points mentioned above and handover the meeting to cluster lead.

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


- Mr. Parajuli started by wishing for a healthy Dashain from the team of Department of Health Services (DoHS).
- 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 based on the request submitted by the provinces, Nutrition commodities will be supplied as soon as possible and request to provide supply for Bagmati and Lumbini province.
- He also requested to strengthen OTC and provide the treatment to SAM children, to provide Micronutrient Powder (MNP) to 6-23 months children, to strengthen and reach target children of 6-59 months during vitamin-A campaign and 12-59 months children for deworming tablet and requested to strengthen school health and nutrition program and reach the target adolescent.
- Regarding FAMILY MUAC he told that the Director General of DoHS, Director of FWD and chief of Nutrition Section of FWD will be discussing about program piloting, implementation and provide the necessary actions to the cluster team.
- 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 25th nutrition cluster meeting will be held on 14th Kartik, 2077 (30 October 2020) via Zoom link from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

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



Mr. Anirudra Sharma
Co-lead, National Nutrition Cluster
30 Aswin 2077 (16 October 2020)
From: United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Signed by the Chair of the Nutrition Cluster Meeting:



Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli
Lead, national Nutrition Cluster
30 Aswin 2077 (16 October 2020)
From: Government of Nepal (GoN)



Annex 1: List of Participants in the meeting:

1. Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DOHS/MoHP –Nutrition cluster lead
2. Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF – Nutrition cluster co-lead
3. Mr. Shaligram Bhusal, MoEST, section Chief/deputy director and Focal person of ECD
4. Ms. Kalpana Pandey, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
5. Ms. Meena Mote, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
6. Mr. Harihar Prasad Sharma, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
7. Mr. Vijay Jha, Acting Director, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2
8. Mr. Subash Gautam, SAAHARA-II, Province 1
9. Mr. Binod Yadav, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2
10. Mr. Shambhu Kafle, Public Health Officer, Bagmati Province
11. Mr. Kaushal Bhandari, Nutrition Focal Person, Provincial Health Directorate, Lumbini Province
12. Mr. Man Kumari Gurung, Community Nursing Officer, Provincial Health Directorate, Karnali Province
13. Ms. Karan Courtney Haag, Chief Nutrition Programme, UNICEF
14. Mr. Debendra Adhikari, Nutrition Specialist, USAID
15. Ms. Dale Davis, Country Representative, HKI
16. Ms. Pooja Pandey Rana, Deputy Chief of the Party, Suaahara II/USAID
17. Mr. Naveen Poudyal, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
18. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Bhujel, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
19. Mr. Sanjay Rijal, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, UNICEF
20. Ms. Naomi Saville, Nutritionist, consultant to DFID and University College London nutrition researcher
21. Mr. Jeevan Ghimire, Health policy Officer, DFID
22. Ms. Anju Adhikari, Nutrition officer, UNICEF/FWD
23. Mr. Indra Bhujel, Governance Expert, UNICEF
24. Ms. Sabina Hora, Nutrition and IEC Experts/HKI
25. Mr. Deepak Thapa, NTAG
26. Mr. Nishant Acharya, Baglung NRH
27. Mr. Ngima T. Sherpa, Chairperson, HHES
28. Ms. Aarju Hamal, Nutrition Officer, HHES
29. Dr. Maureen Dariang, Lead Advisor, NHSSP
30. Ms. Nisha Singh, Knowledge Management Officer, Aasman Nepal
31. Ms. Meena Thapa, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
32. Ms. Dibya Manandhar Rijal, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
33. Mr. Phulgendra Prasad Singh, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
34. Ms. Sumi Maskey, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
35. Mr. Prakash Joshi, Nutrition Officer UNICEF
36. Ms. Bindu Panthi, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
37. Mr. Sudip Chiluwal, Program Coordinator, NEPHEG
38. Mr. Nanda Adhikari, Coordinators, SDPC
39. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP, Karnali Province
40. Mr. Raj Nandan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, SAAHARA II /USAID
41. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal, Care Nepal
42. Mr. Lokendra Thapa, SAAHARA II /USAID
43. Mr. Yam GC, SAAHARA II /USAID
44. Mr. Sunil Khatiwada, SAAHARA II /USAID
45. Mr. Krishna Prasad Lamsal, WFP/FWD
46. Mr. Narayan Satyal, Suaahara II/USAID, Dolakha
47. Mr. Rajendra Adhikari, Suaahara II/USAID, Surkhet
48. Mr. Bharat Sarma - Program Coordinator/Provincial Focal person Province-1, Suaahara II/USAID
49. Ms. Anita Thapa, Program Coordinator, Suaahara II/USAID
50. Ms. Sarita Dahal, UNFPA, Okhaldhunga
51. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal-program coordinator/provincial focal person, province-3, Suaahara II/USAID



52. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator- Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
53. Mr. Lokendra Thapa SAAHARA II/USAID Program Coordinator, Sudurpaschim Province
54. Mr. Binod Kumar Aryal, GHAN
55. Ms. Chhamkala Kafle program manager (Bharatpur NRH)
56. Ms. Kusum K. C. NRH coordinator from Dailekh
57. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Welthungerhilfe
58. Mr. Kuber Prasad Adhikari, Health Nutrition and WASH lead, WVI
59. Mr. Mohan Bhusal, World Vision International
60. Mr. Subash Shrestha, Save the children, Province 5
61. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator-Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Nepal
62. Mr. Sanjeela Gandhari, UNICEF Nepalgunj field office, Trainee
63. Mr. Laxmi Prasad Chaudhary, WFP Province 1, Biratnagar
64. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma, Program Coordinator, Dang
65. Mr. Indra Auji, SP-II Dailekh, Program Coordinator
66. Mr. Subhash Gautam, Program Coordinator, Suaahara II, Panchthar
67. Mr. Ishwor Bhakta Ghimire, Suaahara 2, Taplejung
68. Mr. Sushanta Buddhacharya, World Vision
69. Ms. Sangita Khatri, Save the Children
70. Ms. Nisha Sharma, HKI
71. Mr. Chandan Rouniyar, UNICEF Janakpur field office Trainee
72. Mr. Dirgha Gandhari, Program Coordinator, USAID/Suaahara (HKI)



Annex 2: Briefing from nutrition cluster lead (as of 15 October 2020):

1. Situation of COVID-19:

Indicators	Global Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic		National Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic	
	01 October	15 October 2020	01 October 2020	15 October 2020
Number COVID-19 positive cases	34,172,820	38,770,259	79,728	117,996
Number of deaths among the positive cases	1,018,957 (3%)	1,097,289 (2.9%)	509 (0.6%)	675 (0.57%)
Number of Recovered	25,438,674 (74.4%)	29,139,220 (75.2%)	57,389 (71.9%)	80,954 (68.6%)
Number of PCR tested			1,033,947	1,221,038
Number people in quarantine camps			5,077	4,666
Active COVID-19 cases	7,715,189 (22.6%)	8,533,750	21,830 (27.3%)	36,367
Number of cases in ICU and Ventilators			ICU: 220 Ventilator: 25	ICU: 305 Ventilators: 70
Number of districts where no COVID-19 cases these days			3 (Mustang, Manang and Dolpa)	0
Districts having active cases more than 500				11 (Morang, Sunsari, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Chitwan, Makwanpur, Dang, Banke, Rupendehi, Surkhet)

1. Major Progress made after last nutrition cluster meeting:

- Arrived Government procured MNP and RUTF (8,500 cartons) in country (RUTF still to quality test). UNICEF supported 4,000 cartons already arrived at CMS, Patalaya.
- Ongoing distribution of Supercereal (blanket supplementary feeding programme) in five districts in Karnali, 4 districts of Province 2 and Solukhumbu districts. So far, 168,653 children aged 6-23 months (21,491 in past two weeks) and 95,470 pregnant and lactating women (10,631 in past two weeks) received Super cereal.
- Transported 65 MT Supercereal to Bagmati province, Gandaki province, province five and Sudur Paschim province and ongoing distribution in many of the assigned palikas
- 620 OTCs (out of 718) and 18 NRH (out of 21) are functional and from these centres 5,143 children with SAM were treated using Ready to Use therapeutic food. 165 SAM cases were admitted to the outpatient treatment programmes in past two weeks.
- Treatment protocol of NRH is being developed and will be finalized soon.
- Finalizing the revised version of IMAM guideline and five years costed action plan.
- Developed a checklist for the assessment of IYCF status.
- Transportation of Vitamin A capsules completed to all 7 provinces.
- Completed provincial TOT on CNSI in Dhankuta last week.
- Developed an implementation plan to implement nutrition specific interventions throughout the country to use addition NPR 250,000,000 (250 million rupees). In this fiscal year, total budget is approximately 1,780,000,000 (1 billion, 780 million rupees)

2. Nutrition Data Sheet (as of 15 October 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)	1,845	48	1,893
4	Number of OTCs in the province	718	716	716
5	Number of Functioning OTCs	620	620	620
6	Admission of SAM in the OTCs (Poush 2076 onwards)	3,133	117	3,250
7	Admission of SAM in OTC and NRH (Poush 2076 onwards)	4,978	165	5,143
8	Number of caregivers of SAM children followed up via telephone or other means of follow ups	1,293	143	1,436
Prevention of acute malnutrition				
9	Number of 6-23 months children received Supercereal plus	147,162	21,491	168,653
10	Number of PLWs received Supercereal plus	84,839	10,631	95,470
11	Total PLWs and 6-23 months children received Supercereal	232,001	32,122	264,123
12	Golden1000Days HHS receiving relief package from local government	144,614	-	144,614
Behaviour change communication on nutrition				
13	HHs reached with radio messages on nutrition	2,386,610	80,810	2,467,420
14	HH reached with SMS with IYCF messages	1,927,165	76,373	2,003,538
15	Number of Pregnant & lactating women reach SMS with IYCF messages	683,102	388	683,490
16	Number of HHs reached counselled with telephone	1,968,507	36,811	2,005,318
17	Number of PLWs counselled via telephone	742,093	20,218	762,311
18	Number of FM radio disseminated nutrition messages	203	203	203

3. Challenges

- Resource gaps of supplementary feeding for the prevention of acute malnutrition of 6-59 months children, pregnant and lactating women.
- 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).

4. Way forward/next steps:

- Initiate approval process of SMART survey methods
- Amendment of BMS act
- Continuation of ongoing nutrition services
- Preparation for bi-annual Vitamin A campaign, MNP distribution and MUAC screening to identify the SAM children
- Approval of Costed five-year action plan for nutrition specific interventions and revised IMAM national guideline
- Finalize NRH guideline and treatment protocol Initiate implementation of nutrition programme as per the approved budget for Fiscal Year 2077/078
- Provincial review – 20 people can be attending at a time at a place maintaining social distancing
- CNSI TOT in Karnali province
- Transportation of RUTF and MNPs to different provinces from central Medical Store