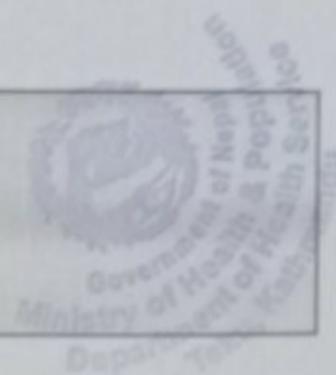


# 38<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING VIA ZOOM LINK

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

24<sup>th</sup> Mangsir, 2078 (10<sup>th</sup> December 2021)



After COVID-19 onset, this the 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of National Nutrition Cluster jointly with Provincial Nutrition Clusters of 7 provinces. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, 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 participants from different organizations were invited out of which 55 plus attended via zoom link.

## AGENDA FOR NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING

| Time                | Agenda Items  |
|---------------------|---|
| 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair of the meeting, welcome to the participants: Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, Chief of Nutrition Section, National Nutrition Cluster-lead</li><li>• Sharing of meeting agenda: Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF, and National Nutrition cluster co-lead.</li><li>• Major updates of nutrition cluster: Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, Chief of Nutrition Section, National Nutrition Cluster lead</li><li>• Updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors): – major briefs/key achievements, key issues, and way forwards/action points</li><li>• Updates from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups (IMAM, IYCF, micro-nutrient, assessment, information management, BCC</li><li>• Briefing the outcome on Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program operational research</li><li>• Updates/speech from MOFAGA</li><li>• Speech from the NPC</li><li>• Remarks from the Director of Family Welfare Division of DOHS/MoHP</li><li>• Speech from the Director-General of Department of Health Services of MoHP</li><li>• Remarks with the closing of the meeting: Chair of the meeting - Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, Chief of Nutrition Section, Nutrition Cluster lead</li></ul> |

### Major Decisions:

**Decision 1:** All provincial Health Directorates to send the action plan based on the outcomes of national nutrition review meeting for FY 2077/078.

**Decision 2:** The provincial authorities such as; Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), Ministry of Health and Population, Provincial Health Directorates (PHD), Provincial Health Training Center (PHTC) and Provincial Logistic Management Center (PLMC) are requested to accelerate the implementation of nutrition programme based on the implementation guideline of AWPB (FY 2078/079) to provide technical support and guidance to local levels to implement nutrition specific and sensitive interventions.

The next National Nutrition Cluster Meeting (40th Meeting) will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> Poush, 2078 (i.e., 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM via zoom link.

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

Mr. Anirudra Sharma  
Co-lead, National Nutrition Cluster  
24<sup>th</sup> Mangsir, 2078 (10<sup>th</sup> December 2021)  
From: United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Signed by the Chair of the Nutrition Cluster Meeting:

Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa  
Lead, National Nutrition Cluster  
24<sup>th</sup> Mangsir, 2078 (10<sup>th</sup> December 2021)  
From: Government of Nepal (GoN)

## Major Discussion/Action points

### Agenda 1: Chair of the meeting, welcome and sharing of meeting agenda

**Chair of the meeting:** Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MoHP as well as Nutrition Cluster lead of Federal Level Nutrition Cluster chaired the session with co-chairing by Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF, and co-lead of National Nutrition cluster.

Welcome and sharing of meeting agenda: Chair of meeting Mr. Lil Bikram Thapa welcomed all the participants and Mr. Anirudra Sharma co-chair shared the meeting agenda.

This is the 39<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting of national nutrition cluster jointly with provincial nutrition cluster after the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. Altogether more than 55 Participants participated in the meeting (see annex 1 for details of the participants list).

### Agenda 2: Updates from National Nutrition cluster

Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MoHP as well as Nutrition Cluster lead provided the brief update on situation of COVID-19 and nutrition status of country. The updates have been included in Annex II:

### Agenda 3: Updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors): – major briefs/key achievements, key issues, and way forwards/action points

The Directors/representatives from all 7 provinces presented the overall situation of COVID-19 and progress made by the nutrition cluster of their respective provinces since last meeting, which was held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> **Kartik 2078 (22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021)**. Following Directors/representatives presented the major highlights, achievements, issues, challenges, and way forward of their respective provinces as follows:

1. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Basnet, Director, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 1
2. Mr. Vijay Jha, Director, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2
3. Mr. Maheswor Shrestha, Director and Dr Narendra Jha, Provincial Health Directorate, Bagamati Province
4. Mr. Nani Babu Dani, Public Health Officer, Provincial Health Directorate, Gandaki Province
5. Mr. Kaushal Bhandari, Provincial Health Directorate, Lumbini Province
6. Mr. Man Kumari Gurung, Provincial Health Directorate, Karnali Province
7. Mr. Lokendra Thapa from SUSAHARA and Ms. Bindu Panthi from UNICEF on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate, Sudurpaschim Province

#### Action points:

- Complete orientation of Simplified approach to all health coordinators, OTCs and district health team for the treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition
- Guide local levels/health facilities for record keeping and reporting of nutrition service statistics in the DHIS2
- Strengthen monitoring and supervision of ongoing nutrition services
- All provincial health logistic management centers to review the stock of nutrition commodities regularly and timely request to the central medical store copying to the nutrition section of FWD
- Preposition of Nutrition commodities for the management of nutrition in emergencies in the most vulnerable areas.
- Ensure adequate Nutrition Supplies at all health facilities.
- Involve nutrition section of Family Welfare Division of DoHS/MoHP for the orientation of Simplified approach as well as OTC reviews.
- Accelerate to implement nutrition programme as per the AWPB of current FY 2078/2079.
- Revitalize the OTCs of Bagamati Provinces which were established during earthquake emergencies.
- It is requested to all provinces to accelerate the approval process of monsoon/COVID-19 response plan.

- Support to organize Nutrition Review at local level.
- Gandaki province to initiate the expansion process of IMAM programme in the remaining districts such as Syangja, Parbat, Lamjung, Kaski etc...
- Support NRH to timely provide the SAM treatment reporting to the concerned Provincial Health Directorates and Nutrition section of FWD

**Agenda 4: Updates from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups (IMAM, IYCF, BCC, Micro-nutrient, Information Management and Assessment TWG.**

**Presenters:**

Mr. Naveen Poudyal, Chair of MN TWG

Ms. Sheela Shrestha, NHEICC

**Action points:**

**Common to all TWG (very important):**

- **All TWG are requested to participate in the nutrition cluster meeting** and organize TWG meeting before the nutrition cluster meeting and discuss about technical issues/matters of nutrition in emergencies.
- **The chairs of all TWG need to attend the cluster meeting** and brief their concerned TWG progress, issues/lesson learned and way forwards.

**Agenda 5: Briefing the outcome on Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program operational research by Mr. Debendra Singh**

**Agenda 6: Closing of meeting**

- Mr. Anirudra Sharma, nutrition cluster co-lead and the meeting facilitator thanked to all participants of the meeting and expressed his gratefulness to Provincial Health Directors and representatives, representatives from Development partners and all members of provincial and federal level nutrition clusters. He expressed especial thanks to Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, the national nutrition cluster lead for his active cluster leadership and national nutrition programme. Finally, he requested to Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa to close the meeting with the announcement of new meeting date.
- Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, the lead of national nutrition cluster and Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MoHP thanked to the Nutrition cluster co-lead Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Provincial Health Directors, and representatives from the PHD, representatives from development partners, all support agencies, provincial and federal level nutrition cluster team members, and all the health personnel attending in the meeting. Similarly, Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa requested to all the provincial participants to participate in the upcoming nutrition cluster meetings regularly.
- The implementation guideline to implement AWPB for FY 2078/79 has been already forwarded to all provinces and local levels. Therefore, Mr Parajuli requested to UNICEF, Suahaara, WFP and other support agencies/development partners to make aware to all local levels about to implement AWPB for FY 2078/079. Similarly, he requested to all provincial health team to go through the annual workplan and budget and initiate implementation of nutrition specific interventions on time.
- Mr. Thapa highlighted again about the flood/landslides situation and explained that due to the flood and landslides, many people are busy to provide the response services. Therefore, all participants couldn't attend in this meeting, and therefore, he requested to all for their presence in the next meeting. Further, he emphasized that the admission rate of acute malnutrition for treatment in the OTCs is very limited. Therefore,

we need to accelerate the screening of the 6-59 months children and provide treatment of identified SAM and MAM children effectively at the OTCs.

- He further requested to all participants that nutrition is a very important interventions to fight against COVID-19. Therefore, we all need to work effectively for the implementation of nutrition specific interventions.

Finally, Mr. Thapa announced that the next nutrition cluster meeting (40th Meeting) will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> Poush, 2078 (i.e. 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM via zoom link and closed the meeting.

## **Annex 1: List of Participants in the meeting:**

1. Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DOHS/MoHP –Nutrition cluster lead
2. Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF – Nutrition cluster co-lead
3. Mr. Mahshwor Shrestha, Director Provincial Health Directorate, Bagamati Province
4. Dr Narendra Jha, Provincial Health Directorate, Bagamati Province
5. Vijay Kumar Jha, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2
6. Ms. Karan Courtney Haag, Chief of Nutrition Section, UNICEF
7. Mr. Naveen Poudyal, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
8. Mr. Uttam Acharya, Nutrition Specialist, FAO/FANSEP
9. Ms. Sabina Hora, HKI
10. Ms. Puja Chand, NRH Dadeldhura
11. Mr. Niraj KC, Suahaara/USAID
12. Ms. Sumi Maskey, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
13. Ms. Bindu Panthi, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
14. Mr. Deepak Thapa, NTAG
15. Mr. Harihar Sharma, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
16. Ms. Meena Gautam, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
17. Ms. Nisha Sharma, HKI
18. Ms. Kalpana Pandey, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
19. Dr. Salil Rana, FWD/HKI
20. Ms. Anju Adhikari, Nutrition section, FWD/UNICEF
21. Mr. Sher Singh Dahit, UNICEF/MOFAA
22. Ms. Elina Sharma (NRH Okhaldhunga)
23. Ms. Rashmi Jha, NRH Rajbiraj
24. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP, Karnali Province
25. Mr. Sunil Khatiwada, SUSAHARA II /USAID
26. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma-USAID/Suaahara II
27. Mr. Debendra Adhikari, Nutrition Specialist, USAID
28. Mr. Sudip Chiluwal, Program Coordinator, NEPHEG
29. Mr. Raj Nandan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, SUSAHARA II /USAID
30. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal, SUSAHARA II /USAID
31. Mr. KP Lamsal, Nutrition section, FWD/WFP
32. Mr. Rajendra Adhikari, Suaahara II/USAID, Surkhet
33. Mr. Bharat Sarma - Program Coordinator/Provincial Focal person Province-1, Suaahara II/USAID
34. Ms. Chitrakala Nepal, intern, FWD, Nutrition section
35. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma-USAID/Suaahara II
36. Ms. Gita Bista, NRH, Kailali
37. Ms. Sangita Khatri, Save the Children International
38. Mr. Subhash Gautam - Suaahara II, Province 1 coordinator
39. Mr. Purushottam Aryan, MSNP coordinator, Bagamati Province
40. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal-program coordinator/provincial focal person, province-3, Suaahara II/USAID
41. Mr. Bhumiswar Sharma, Program Coordinator, Suaahara II/USAID
42. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator- Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
43. Ms. Chhamkala Kafle program manager (Bharatpur NRH)

44. Mr. Gyanendra Dawadi, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Sudur Paschim Province
45. Mr. Man Bahadur Kunwar, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Karnali, Paschim Province
46. Mr. Bhumi Sharma, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Lumbini Province
47. Ms. Pabitra Sapkota, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Gandaki Province
48. Mr. Hemanta Jha, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Province number 2
49. Mr. Sanjiv Ghishing, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Province number 1
50. Ms. Geeta Bista, NRH Kailali
51. Ms. Ganga Limbu, NRH, Bhadrapur
52. Ms. Nirmaya Gurung, NRH Pokhara
53. Ms. Prativa AC, NPC
54. Mr. Lokendra Thapa, Province Coordinator, USAID/SUAAHARA Program, SUDUR PASHCHIM Province

## Annex 2: Situation and Progress Presentation by Nutrition Cluster lead:

### 1. Status of COVID-19 as of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mangsir, 2078 (8 December 2021)

| Indicators                                     | Global Situation                                  |   | National Situation                         |   |
|--|---|---|--|---|
|  | 20 October 2021                                   | 8 December 2021                               | 20 October 2021                            | 8 December 2021                           |
| Number COVID-19 positive cases                 | 242,364,345<br>Increased by 23.1 million (10.5 %) | 267,406,630<br>Increased by 25,042,285 (9.4%) | 900,484<br>Increased by 50,276 (6%)        | 919,044<br>Increased by 18,560 (2%)       |
| Number of deaths among the positive cases      | 4,929,541 (2%)<br>Increased by 3.8 lakhs (8%)     | 5,286,829 (2%)<br>Increased by 357,288 (7.2%) | 11,318 (1.4%)<br>Increased by 532 (5%)     | 11,547 (1.4%)                             |
| Number of Recovered                            | 219,694,797 (90.6%)                               | 240,840,834 (90.1%)                           | 784,155 (97.1%)                            | 805,571 (97.8%)                           |
| Number of PCR tested                           | NA  | NA  | Total tested: 4,980,123 (Antigen: 636,483) | Total tested: 5,537,485 (Antigen: 95,687) |
| Active COVID-19 cases among the Positive cases | 17,740,007 (7.4%)                                 | 21,278,967 (7.9%)                             | 11,579 (1.29%)                             | 6,239 (0.68%)                             |
| Number of people in Ventilation and ICU        | NA  | NA  | ICU: 274<br>Ventilator: 104                | ICU: 128<br>Ventilator: 29                |

### 2. COVID-19 situation

- COVID-19 pandemic still affecting larger population of the country and smooth operation of health and nutrition programme still effectively not going.
- A new variant of concern of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19, Omicron, has been detected in several countries.
- [According to WHO, as of 8 December 2021, the new coronavirus variant omicron](#) has so far been found in **57 countries**, warning that the rate of hospitalization resulting from infection is likely to rise.
- In Nepal, two Omicron cases have been identified among the migrant population and those cases are now PCR negative.
- Government of Nepal has issues new travel protocol and according to the protocol, travelers arriving Nepal from different 9 countries are restricted such as; South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique, Malawi and Hong Kong.
- The department of Immigration has advised not to visit these countries mentioned above unless in case of emergency.
- We need to be very cautious about mass gathering, to go to the crowded population, following the IPC measures and social distancing.

### **3. Progress made after 38th National Nutrition Cluster meeting**

- 2,552 (OTC: 2,436; NRH: 116) children under five years old with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have been admitted in the 817 Outpatient Therapeutic Centers (OTCs) and 22 Nutrition Rehabilitation Homes (NRH) across the country.
- Caregivers of 39,441 children below 23 months received IYCF counselling.
- 90% children (2,183,364 out of 2,437,022) 6-59 months aged received Vitamin A supplements national campaign conducted in 6-7 November 2021.
- 88% children (1,905,618 out of 2,168,906) 12-59 months aged were dewormed in national campaign conducted in 6-7 November 2021.
- Ongoing support for infant and young child feeding information dissemination and counselling services via telephone, radio, SMS, TV and other social media communication channels.
- Ongoing procurement process of nutrition commodities by FWD and Management Division of DoHS/MoHP.
- Completed revision of nutrition indicators in HMIS and submitted to HMIS section.
- Completed final revision of FCHV flip chart and will be printed soon and distributed to the provinces as per the need.
- 58,755 children aged 6-23 months received MNP.
- 55,282 children aged 6-23 months and 33,355 pregnant and lactating mothers have been benefitted from Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme in Province number 2, Karnali and Sudur Paschim provinces.
- Ongoing provincial nutrition reviews in different provinces

### **4. Issues and Challenges:**

- The use of essential nutrition services remains low
- Systematic community-based screening of children to detect for wasting remains constrained
- Record keeping and timely reporting
- Limited capacity for the management of nutrition in emergency preparedness and response
- Roles of nutrition cluster technical working group for technical guidance for the management of nutrition in emergencies
- Not finalized NiE preparedness and response plan for provincial nutrition cluster in all 7 provinces

### **5. Way forward/Next steps:**

- Piloting Family MUAC approach in 4 districts
- Continue orientation of simplified treatment approach.
- Continue service monitoring of ongoing nutrition interventions.
- Ensure preposition of essential Nutrition commodities in all provincial warehouses
- Strengthen and expansion of OTCs (minimum one OTCs in one palika).
- Focus to initiate to implement CNSI up to the FCHV levels as per the planning
- Capacity building on nutrition in emergencies and ITC at provincial levels
- Incorporate revised nutrition indicators in HMIS and initiate MAM treatment reporting mechanism through the DHIS-2
- Initiate to form NUTEC at provincial level