

26th NATIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING Via ZOOM LINK

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

FRIDAY, 19th Mangsir, 2077 (4th December, 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 25th 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 61 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 to participants: Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, Nutrition Cluster-lead Sharing of meeting agenda: Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF and Nutrition cluster co-lead Major update by Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, Nutrition 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), Updates/remarks from MoEST Remarks with the closing of the meeting: Chair of the meeting - Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, Nutrition Cluster lead

Major Decisions:

Decision 1: All provinces to facilitate local level to organize CNSI trainings as soon as possible as per the Annual Work Plan Budget (AWPB). Similarly, Karnali province is requested to organize CNSI TOT as soon as possible.

Decision 2: Bagmati province, Gandaki province, Lumbini province and Sudurpaschim province are requested to submit the distribution report of Supercereal sent from Family Welfare Division (FWD).

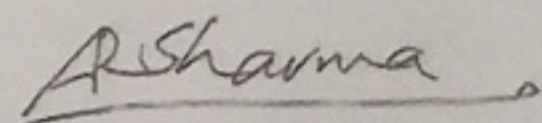
Decision 3: Initiate the process to include Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment report in the Health Management Information System (HMIS) from Nutrition Rehabilitation Home (NRH).

Decision 4: Technical support, coordination and collaboration for collection and reporting of second round of National Vitamin-A campaign report in Integrated Health Information Management System (HIMS).

Decision 5: Any international agencies or national NGOs who are working in the field of nutrition at different levels need to have an agreement or MoU with Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and they need to send the document to Nutrition section of FWD through an email at fwdnutritionsection33@gmail.com by 13th December 2020.

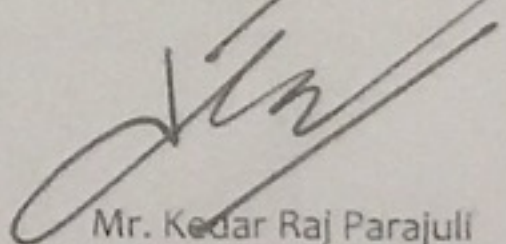
Decision 6: The nutrition cluster meeting will be held on 3rd Poush, 2077 (4th December 2020) via zoom link from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

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



Mr. Anirudra Sharma
Co-lead, National Nutrition Cluster
28th Kartik, 2077 (13th November 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
28th Kartik, 2077 (13th November 2020)
From: Government of Nepal (GoN)



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 26th virtual meeting of national nutrition cluster after COVID-19 Global Pandemic disease (COVID 19) arise. In this meeting, altogether 50 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, Lumbini Province, Karnali Province and Sudurpaschim Province presented the progress made by the provincial nutrition clusters in the concerned provinces including major highlights, achievements, issues, challenges and way forward. The name of the presenters are as follows:

Mr. Udesh Shrestha, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 1
Mr. Vijay Jha, Director, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2
Mr. Yam GC, SUA AHARA-II, on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate of Gandaki Province
Mr. Kaushal Bhandari, Nutrition Focal Person, Provincial Health Directorate, Lumbini Province
Ms. Bindu Panthi on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate, Karnali Province
Dr. Gunaraj Awasthi, Director, Provincial Health Directorate of Sudurpaschim Province

Action points:

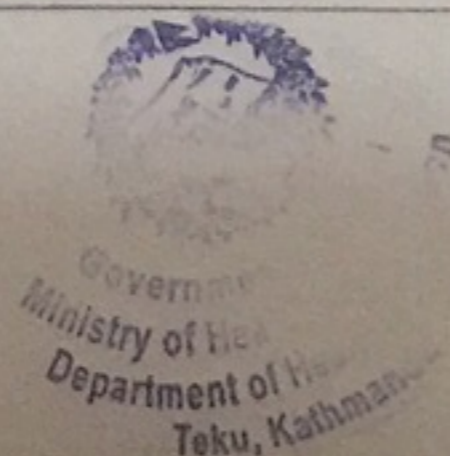
- Collect and present the report of first round of National Vitamin-A campaign of running fiscal year in Integrated Health Information Management System (IHIMS)
- Mobilize FCHVs to send the 6-59 months children to the health facilities for screening and treatment of SAM if needed following no touch approach.
- Organize CNSI TOT in Karnali Province as soon as possible. Also immediately organize, facilitate and coordinate with local government to organize CNSI training to health workers and FCHVs wherever budget is allocated from Ministry of Health and Population.
- 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.

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:

Ms. Manisha Katwal, Co-chair of IMAM TWG
Mr. Sanjay Rijal, IYCF TWG
Mr. Naveen Poudyal, MN TWG
Ms. Sangeeta Poudyal, IM TWG



The major action points for TWGs are as follows:

- Endorse methodology of Rapid Assessment of IYCF and recommend for approval from FWD/DoHS/MoHP – assessment and IYCF TWG.
- 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 – MN TWG.
- 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 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 for the participation and presentation in the meeting. 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 thanking to all provincial health Directors, federal and provincial nutrition cluster team members, all the health personnel to make it happen of first round of vitamin -A campaign of 2077. He also clarified that because of some technical problem MoHP was unable to provide full supply of MNP to the different places as requested. He further added that FWD will manage nutrition supplies immediately to all the needy places as technical problem is solved.
- He also requested to all the health personnel to provide vitamin A campaign pictures through email id of Nutrition Section of FWD.
- He thanked to and appreciated the facilitation skills of Mr. Anirudra Sharma, nutrition cluster co-lead and their team who have been working very actively and the nutrition and health services are also ongoing in this COVID-19 situation.
- He also told that Nutrition Section will be soon working on quality assurance guideline for nutrition programme.
- No one was presented the cluster progress from Bagmati province in the cluster meeting. Therefore, he requested to supported agencies to provide active support to make nutrition cluster active in Bagmati province.
- With UNICEF's assistance nutrition commodities were transported to all the provinces and all PHLMCs are requested to provide the commodities to the respective places/palikas as needed.
- He also thanked to UNICEF, SUSAHARA and other support agencies for their strong support to make the national Vitamin-A campaign more effective.
- At the same time, he also announced that the 27th nutrition cluster meeting will be held on 3rd Poush, 2077 (18th December 2020) via Zoom link from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.



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. Ms. Kalpana Pandey, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
4. Ms. Meena Mote, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
5. Mr. Harihar Prasad Sharma, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
6. Mr. Udesha Shrestha, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 1
7. Mr. Vijay Jha, Director, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2
8. Mr. Kaushal Bhandari, Nutrition Focal Person, Provincial Health Directorate, Lumbini Province
9. Dr. Gunaraj Awasthi, Director, Provincial Health Directorate of Sudurpaschim Province
10. Ms. Karan Courtney Haag, Chief Nutrition Programme, UNICEF
11. Mr. Debendra Adhikari, Nutrition Specialist, USAID
12. Mr. Phulgendra Prasad Singh, Nutrition Specialist UNICEF
13. Ms. Dale Davis, Country Representative, HKI
14. Ms. Pooja Pandey Rana, Deputy Chief of the Party, Suaahara II/USAID
15. Mr. Naveen Poudyal, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
16. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Bhujel, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
17. Mr. Sanjay Rijal, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, UNICEF
18. Ms. Naomi Saville, Nutritionist, consultant to DFID and University College London nutrition researcher
19. Ms. Anju Adhikari, Nutrition officer, UNICEF/FWD
20. Mr. Indra Bhujel, Governance Expert, UNICEF
21. Mr. Deepak Thapa, NTAG
22. Mr. Ngima T. Sherpa, Chairperson, HHESS
23. Ms. Aarju Hamal, Nutrition Officer, HHESS
24. Dr. Maureen Dariang, Lead Advisor, NHSSP
25. Ms. Nisha Singh, Knowledge Management Officer, Aasman Nepal
26. Ms. Meena Thapa, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
27. Ms. Sumi Maskey, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
28. Ms. Bindu Panthi, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
29. Mr. Sudip Chiluwal, Program Coordinator, NEPHEG
30. Mr. Nanda Adhikari, Coordinators, SDPC
31. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP, Karnali Province
32. Mr. Raj Nandan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, SAAHARA II /USAID
33. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal, Care Nepal
34. Mr. Lokendra Thapa, SAAHARA II /USAID
35. Mr. Yam GC, SAAHARA II /USAID
36. Mr. Sunil Khatiwada, SAAHARA II /USAID
37. Mr. Krishna Prasad Lamsal, WFP/FWD
38. Mr. Narayan Satyal, Suaahara II/USAID, Dolakha
39. Mr. Rajendra Adhikari, Suaahara II/USAID, Surkhet
40. Mr. Bharat Sarma - Program Coordinator/Provincial Focal person Province-1, Suaahara II/USAID
41. Ms. Anita Thapa, Program Coordinator, Suaahara II/USAID
42. Ms. Sarita Dahal, UNFPA, Okhaldhunga
43. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal-program coordinator/provincial focal person, province-3, Suaahara II/USAID
44. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator- Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
45. Mr. Lokendra Thapa SAAHARA II/USAID Program Coordinator, Sudurpaschim Province
46. Mr. Binod Kumar Aryal, GHAN
47. Ms. Chhamkala Kafle program manager (Bharatpur NRH)
48. Ms. Kusum K. C. NRH coordinator from Dailekh
49. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Welthungerhilfe
50. Mr. Kuber Prasad Adhikari, Health Nutrition and WASH lead, WVI
51. Mr. Mohan Bhusal, World Vision International



52. Mr. Subash Shrestha, Save the children, Province 5
53. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator-Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Nepal
54. Mr. Laxmi Prasad Chaudhary, WFP Province 1, Biratnagar
55. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma, Program Coordinator, Dang
56. Mr. Indra Auji, SP-II Dailekh, Program Coordinator
57. Mr. Subhash Gautam, Program Coordinator, Suaahara II, Panchthar
58. Mr. Ishwor Bhakta Ghimire, Suaahara 2, Taplejung
59. Mr. Sushanta Buddhacharya, World Vision
60. Ms. Sangita Khatri, Save the Children
61. Mr. Dirgha Gandhari, Program Coordinator, USAID/Suaahara (HKI)

Briefing from nutrition cluster lead (as of 4th December 2020):

1. Situation of COVID-19:

Indicators	Global Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic		National Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic	
	12 November 2020	03 December 2020	12 November 2020	03 December 2020
Number COVID-19 positive cases	52,457,995	64,865,959	204,242	237,589
Number of deaths among the positive cases	1,290,026 (2.5%)	1,499,671 (2.3%)	1,189 (0.6%)	1551 (0.65%)
Number of Recovered	36,687,962 (69.9%)	44,961,955 (69.3%)	164,592 (80.6%)	220,272 (92.71%)
Number of PCR tested			1,584,317	1,763,919
Number people in quarantine camps			974	576
Active COVID-19 cases	14,480,007 (27.6%)	18,404,333 (28.4%)	38,461 (18.8%)	15,766
Number of cases in ICU and Ventilators			ICU: 373 Ventilator: 87	ICU: 388 Ventilator: 65
Number of districts where no COVID-19 cases these days			Manang	Manang and Dolpa
Districts having active cases more than 500			12 (Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Chitwan, Kavre, Kaski, Nawalparasi (east), Dang, Rupendehi, Kailali)	6 (Jhapa, Morang, Kathmandu and Bhaktapur, Lalitpur and Kaski)

2. Major Progress made after last nutrition cluster meeting:

- Conducted National Vitamin A campaign on 11 and 12 Magsir 2077 (26, 27 November 2020)
- Completed transportation of RUTF, MNP and other nutrition commodities from to all 7 provinces from Pathalaya warehouse.
- Ongoing distribution of Supercereal (blanket supplementary feeding programme) in five districts in Karnali, 6 districts of Province 2 and; Sunsari and Solukhumbu districts of Province 1. So far, 182,665 children aged 6-23 months and 103,515 pregnant and lactating women received Super cereal.
- 620 OTCs (out of 718) and 18 NRH (out of 21) are functional and from these centres 6,069 children with SAM were treated using Ready to Use therapeutic food. 224 SAM cases were admitted in the OTC and NRH in last weeks.
- Ongoing CNSI training in different districts to the health workers.
- Finalized five years costed action plan and submitted to MoHP for approval. Similarly, finalized the revised version of IMAM national guideline and it is ready for approval.
- Initiated the process for the development of quality assurance guideline for nutrition

- Treatment protocol of NRH is being developed and will be finalized soon.
- Treatment of MAM will be started in 2 districts of province 2 (Saptari and Siraha)

Tracking progress of Nutrition Interventions after COVID-19 arise (as of 27 November 2020):				
SN	Indicators	Total		Total so far
		Until last week	Past Two Weeks	
Nutrition cluster coordination				
1	Number of nutrition cluster meeting	74	1	75
2	Number of members in nutrition cluster	210	210	210
Treatment of Severe acute malnutrition				
3	Number of NRH in the Province	21	21	21
4	Number of Functioning NRH	19	19	19
5	Admission of SAM in the NRHs (Poush 2076 onwards)	1,947	32	1,979
6	Number of OTCs in the province	718	718	718
7	Number of Functioning OTCs	620	620	620
8	Admission of SAM in the OTCs (Poush 2076 onwards)	3,898	192	4,090
9	Admission of SAM in OTC and NRH (Poush 2076 onwards)	5,845	224	6,069
10	Number of caregivers of SAM children followed up via telephone or other means of follow ups	1,839	184	2,023
Prevention of acute malnutrition				
11	Number of 6-23 months children received Supercereal plus	182,665	-	182,665
12	Number of PLWs received Supercereal plus	103,515	-	103,515
13	Total 6-23 months children and PLWs received Supercereal	286,180	-	286,180
14	Golden1000Days HHS receiving relief package from local government	144,614	-	144,614
Behaviour change communication on nutrition				
15	HHs reached with radio messages on nutrition	3,434,553	-	3,434,553
16	HH reached with SMS with IYCF messages	2,157,829	-	2,157,829
17	Number of PLWs SMS with IYCF messages	684,266	-	684,266
18	Number of HHs reached counselled with telephone	2,078,717	-	2,078,717
19	Number of PLWs counselled via telephone and home visit	873,291	-	873,291
20	Number of FM radio disseminated nutrition messages	203	187	187

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).
- Lack of protective equipment for FCHVs to continue community-based nutrition programme

4. Way forward/next steps:

- Collection of the report of National Vitamin A campaign conducted on 11 and 12 Magsir 2077 (26, 27 November 2020)
- Initiate approval process of IYCF virtual guideline assessment guideline
- Initiate approval process of SMART survey methods.
- Continuation of ongoing nutrition services
- Finalize NRH guideline and treatment protocol
- Initiate implementation of nutrition programme as per the approved budget for Fiscal Year 2077/078
- Initiate approval of Family MUAC approach since FCHVs are not allowed to do the MUAC screening of 6-59 months children.