

VIRTUAL 10th NATIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING Via ZOOM LINK

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

FRIDAY, 12 JESTHA 2077 (22 MAY 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 under five years children, pregnant and lactating women and elderly (60 years plus) population. This is the tenth meeting after activating the nutrition cluster. The meeting was chaired by Nutrition Cluster lead Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MoHP and co-chaired by the cluster co-lead Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF. Altogether 136 plus people from different organizations were invited out of which 87 attended via zoom link.


AGENDA FOR NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING	
Time	Agenda Items
11:00 AM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chair of the meeting, scenario setting, welcome and sharing of meeting agenda 2. Major updates: Chair of the meeting, Nutrition cluster lead 3. Review of action points from previous meetings: Nutrition cluster co-lead 4. Progress updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors)
To	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Brief on the major areas as: Strategy to continue National Vitamin-A program, Screening of 6-59 months children (Family MUAC approach), Continuation of NRH and others.
01:30 PM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Progress from each TWG with concrete action points (7 TWGs: IMAM, IYCF, BCC, IM, Assessment, MN) 7. Remarks from Ms. Laxmi Ghimire, Under Secretary, NPC 8. Remarks from Professor Dr. Madhu Dixit Devkota, technical expert for High-Level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee 9. AOB and closing by Chair Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli

MAJOR DISCUSSIONS/ACTION POINTS	
Agenda 1: Chair of the meeting, scenario setting, welcome and sharing of meeting agenda	
<p>Chair of the Meeting: Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MOHP and the National Nutrition Cluster Lead Chair the Session with Co-Chairing by Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist UNICEF and National Nutrition Cluster Co-lead.</p> <p>Welcome to the participants and agenda sharing: Chair of the meeting welcome to the all participants via zoom link and Co-chair shared the meeting agenda mention above</p> <p>This was the ninth virtual cluster meeting conducted since the third meeting arise of the Global Pandemic disease (COVID 19), 86 participants attended (<u>see annex 1 for detail of participants</u>) online and contributed. With emphasis of COVID 19 response and prevention.</p>	
Agenda 2: Major briefing from nutrition cluster:	
Discussion	
Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Nutrition cluster-lead presented the Global and National situation of Covid-19 and the major achievements of	

<p>nutrition cluster. The major outcomes presented by Mr. Parajuli has been attached in the annex 2</p>	
<p>Agenda 3: Review of action points from previous meetings</p>	
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Follow up actions</p>
<p>Mr. Anirudra Sharma Nutrition cluster co-lead shared the action points and progress of previous meetings.</p>	<p>See Annex 3 for details of the status of the achievements of the action points agreed on 15 May 2020</p>
<p>Agenda 4: Progress updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors) focusing to nutrition service continuity and monitoring of ongoing nutrition services</p>	
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Follow up actions</p>
<p>Province number 1: Mr. Om Prasad Yadav, Health Assistant of Provincial Health Directorate updated the major highlights as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted ToR of Provincial Health and Nutrition Cluster and it will be submitted to MoSD for approval • Nutrition service delivery from health facility is going on • Local government distributed relief in 3,773 G1000D Households and targeting to PLWs in Khotang district • MSNP Coordinators and Volunteers and technical staffs from Suaahara supporting local levels in 7 districts • Conducted health and nutrition cluster meeting on 19 May 2020 to support local level in different nutrition issues (Like Service delivery, and commodities supply) • Suaahara has been providing counselling service to 1,400 pregnant women through telephone for maternal nutrition and institutional delivery; shared information through SMS to 1,641 FCHVs and 14,158 G1000Days women on COVID-19 and nutrition; deployed medical doctor has been for PHD; and counselling by phone to G1000D 10669 HH. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop province wide Vitamin A supplementation plan and propose in the next cluster meeting • Develop nutrition supply plan for the province • Develop Covid-19 response plan for the province • Develop Monsoon response plan considering Covid-19 situation • Continue nutrition service monitoring • Facilitate to continue all nutrition rehabilitation homes • Finalize Health and Nutrition cluster TOR • Prepare an action plan and implement for nutrition response to PLW and under five children in quarantine camps and isolated room • Develop specific plan for screening and treatment of the 6-59 months children with SAM considering Covid-19 context
<p>Province number 2: Mr. Harishchandra Shah, the Director of Provincial Health Directorate (PHD) of province 2 briefed the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ToR of Provincial Health and Nutrition Cluster of Province # 2 has been finalized and is under the process of endorsement by MoSD. • MSNP Coordinators and Nutrition Volunteers (MoFAGA staff) in coordination with the districts and local levels have been and proving following supports in 7 out of 8 districts and 119 Palikas of Province # 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organized a meeting Policy and Planning Commission and MoSD to reflect the MSNP in the policy and program of Province # 2 and allocated budget for nutrition programs - Sent the letter to palikas received from MoFAGA regarding the activation of Palika level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees for COVID response. - Dispatched IMAM, IYCF Guidance notes, BCC messages developed by MoHP/FWD to 119 Palikas - Ongoing coordination and support to Palikas for the nutrition friendly relief distribution focused on G1000D mothers - Three Palikas revised the MSNP activities and planned to distribute POSHAN JHOLA to G1000D mothers in Dhanusha and 2 Palikas already distributed food items to them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop province wide Vitamin A supplementation plan and propose in the next cluster meeting • Develop nutrition supply plan for the province • Develop Covid-19 response plan for the province • Develop Monsoon response plan considering Covid-19 situation • Continue nutrition service monitoring • Facilitate to continue all nutrition rehabilitation homes • Develop specific plan for screening and treatment of the 6-59 months children with SAM considering Covid-19 context

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing support to local levels to resume the essential services - Lalbandi Municipality distributed 2 Kg Chana, 60 IFA tabs and Dettol soaps to 1,490 Pregnant mothers - Supported to organize the District Level H&N cluster meeting in Sarlahi district - Supported to collect the data of HHs of G1000D days mothers at Parsauni Gaupalika, Bara and Parsagadhi NP of Parsa for the relief distribution - Thori Gaupalika of Parsa district distributed relief package to G1000 days mothers (Mask, sanitizer, eggs and food items) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aasman Nepal with support from WHH has been providing following support in the following districts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soap distribution is ongoing by door to door in Saptari and Rautahat for mothers' of G1000 days covering 3,600 HHs - Breastfeeding and complementary feeding counselling is provided by using flip chart through home visit - Information and demonstration being conducted for hand washing • Messages for the prevention of COVID-19 are given <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With UNICEF's support, ongoing airing of the messages of nutrition in the context of COVID-19 through 32 FMs of province # 2. Similarly, ongoing the talk program (COVID KURA) on nutrition has been ongoing with experts through FM radio to disseminate nutrition the messages. 	
<p>Bagmati province: Mr. Shambhu Kafle, Public Health Administrator of Provincial Health Directorate (PHD) briefed following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing follow up with Health Facilities to ensure availability of Health & Nutrition services and commodities and COVID Prevention Group (CPG) formation and activation. • This week Suaahara Technical officers followed up 21 HF's and reported 3 HF's are stock out (Vit A, RUTF MNP) and COVID Prevention Groups are not formed in 13 HF's. • Ongoing phone counselling to 3,776 pregnant and 16,159 lactating women by Suaahara staffs on Health and Nutrition and considering to COVID-19. Total 68,472 HH reached with nutrition and Covid-19 awareness messages. During phone counseling - a total of 18,204 HHs have been assessed on food availability and based on this 2,187 HHs are referred for Food Aid program of local government. • Suaahara continuously supporting to air nutrition related Radio program Bhanchhin Ama, COVID prevention related Hello Bhanchhin Ama and different PSAs for the promotion of Nutrition through 13 FMs and Radio Nepal. • Suaahara staffs are follow up and counseling MAM and SAM cases as well in Five working districts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop province wide Vitamin A supplementation plan and propose in the next cluster meeting • Develop nutrition supply plan for the province • Develop Covid-19 response plan for the province • Develop Monsoon response plan considering Covid-19 situation • Continue nutrition service monitoring • Facilitate to continue all nutrition rehabilitation homes • Finalize health and nutrition cluster TOR and submit for approval • Develop specific plan to provide treatment of SAM considering Covid-19 context wherever essential
<p>Gandaki Province: On behalf of Gandaki Province, Mr. Nawaraj Sharma, the health education and communication officer of Provincial health Directorate briefed the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established H&N cluster and first meeting was accomplished on 15 May 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop province wide Vitamin A supplementation plan and propose in the next cluster meeting • Develop nutrition supply plan for the province • Develop Covid-19 response plan for the province

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received 12 Cartoons MNP and 2 Cartoons F75 from Province 5. • Suaahara Program has been conducting Risk Communication and community engagement to raise awareness on nutrition and COVID-19. In between Since 08 April to 19 May 2020, altogether 80,404 Households were reached by telephone counseling. Out of them, 22,667 were 1000 days' HHs. Similarly, 1,572 households were referred to local governments for food relief & 177 people were referred to local health facilities those have health problem. Besides that, 16 local FM stations have been regularly broadcasting 15 PSAs focusing on emergency nutrition and COVID-19 on daily basis. Likewise, Bhanchnin Aama Raido weekly episodes also airing focusing on maternal and child nutrition. • Circulated the interim guidelines on MIYCN and IMAM to the local levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Monsoon response plan considering Covid-19 situation • Continue nutrition service monitoring • Facilitate to continue all nutrition rehabilitation homes • Develop specific strategy to provide screening services to the children 6-59 months and ensure provision of SAM treatment considering Covid-19 context • Distribute F75, F-100, and MNP to the needed places.
<p>Province number 5: On behalf of Provincial Health directorate, Ms. Huma Kumari Pun, Senior Health Administrator briefed the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and nutrition cluster already established, and TOR Health and Nutrition Cluster has been established and the 1st Nutrition Cluster meeting was held on 18 May 2020 with action plans to take forward the cluster activities. • Cluster in coordination with Health Offices, isolation hospitals, and quarantine centers is identifying PLWs, children under-five and guiding them to ensure screening for nutrition status, provision of nutrition services (IFA to PLWs, Vitamin A, MNP, and Deworming to the children and necessary management of MAM/SAM if identified). • Field level staff of MSNP, Suaahara and ACF are mobilized to track the SAM cases and screening at HF level. 7 new cases (1 in Rukum East, 3 in Banke, 2 Rupandehi, and 1 Dang) are enrolled in OTCs. 17 defaulters (7 in Banke, 5 Rupandehi, and 5 in Dang) were followed and among them 1 in Dang was re-enrolled in OTC. • Province Health Logistic Management Center (PHLMC) with transport support from UNICEF and in coordination with Suaahara sent MNP (12 cartons), F75 (2 Cartons), and F100 (6 Cartons) to PHLMC of Gandaki Province. • Suaahara and ACF is providing nutrition counseling for MIYCN and conducting follow-up of SAM children via phone communication. With support from Suaahara, COVID RC messages are being aired from more than 100 FM Radio stations. Interview of Honorable Chief Minister was aired last week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop province wide Vitamin A supplementation plan and propose in the next cluster meeting • Develop nutrition supply plan for the province • Develop Covid-19 response plan for the province • Develop Monsoon response plan considering Covid-19 situation • Continue nutrition service monitoring • Facilitate to continue all nutrition rehabilitation homes • Develop specific strategy to provide screening services to the children 6-59 months and ensure provision of SAM treatment considering Covid-19 context
<p>Karnali province: Ms. Dharmendra Neupane, Pharmacy officer, Provincial Health Logistic Management Directorate briefed the following points from PHD of Karnali province:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Nutrition cluster formed, and functional. • With the support from UNICEF, nutrition BCC messages are being aired from different 14 FMs of the province covering all districts of the province. 7, 18, 729 (40% of total population) people has reached through the nutrition messages, out of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop province wide Vitamin A supplementation plan and propose in the next cluster meeting • Develop nutrition supply plan for the province • Develop Covid-19 response plan for the province • Develop Monsoon response plan considering Covid-19 situation • Continue nutrition service monitoring

<p>which 1, 43, 835 women with reproductive age group has listened to this message.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of Super Cereal for May 2020 completed in 28 HFs, ongoing in 27 HFs and plans to start the distribution in 73 HFs within this week with support from WFP in 5 Karnali districts under MCHN programme • SUA AHARA supporting under “Bhanchhin Aama” through 12 FM radios and 250 field staff at field level, capacity building of health workers, FCHVs and field staff in cooperation with federal, provincial and local governments. • Save the Children supporting 12 Palikas in programme districts aimed at improving RMNCHN and IEC materials on COVID – 19, nutrition messaging through radio in Jajarkot and Kalikot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate to continue all nutrition rehabilitation homes • Develop specific strategy to provide screening services to the children 6-59 months and ensure provision of SAM treatment considering Covid-19 context
<p>Sudur Paschim province: Dr Bhusan Mishra and Mr Min raj joshi of Provincial Health Directorate of Sudurpaschim Province briefed the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Nutrition cluster formed, and functional and ongoing bi-weekly meeting regularly. • With the support from UNICEF and SUA AHARA, ongoing commodities stock tracking and functionality assessment of OTCs and NRHs is being carried out. • Out of three NRHs in Sudur Paschim province, one NRH (Dhangadhi) has been operated and 4 children are admitted for treatment. Ongoing discussion with Hospital management to activate remaining 2 NRHs. • With the support from UNICEF and SUA AHARA, nutrition BCC messages are being aired regularly from different 42 Local FMs (19 from UNICEF and 23 from SUA AHARA in 3 languages- Nepali, Tharu and Doteli) in the province covering all districts. Approx. 40% people are reached through the nutrition messages. <div style="text-align: center;">  PSA Nutrition_Sudur Pashchim Province.mp3 </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial level nutrition and food security steering committee meeting was organized and discussed on how can be given priority to nutrition program in the upcoming fiscal year. • MoEAGA has issued a letter to all provincial ministries and local government regarding incorporation of MSNP interventions/activities in upcoming annual budget and planning. • This week total 25,908 (Total 1,42,522 HHs) Households counselled by Suaahara front line worker, send pushed messages to HHs, interviewed with experts and messaging thorough social media about COVID-19 and Nutrition promotion. • This week 52 Health Facility (Total 328 HFs) were counselled by Suaahara technical officers for reviving the services, and identified the stockout of Nutrition and essential commodities, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop province wide Vitamin A supplementation plan and propose in the next cluster meeting • Develop nutrition supply plan for the province • Develop Covid-19 response plan for the province • Develop Monsoon response plan considering Covid-19 situation • Continue nutrition service monitoring • Facilitate to continue all nutrition rehabilitation homes • Develop an implementation plan to reactivate Stabilization Centers in the IMAM districts • Develop specific strategy to provide screening services to the children 6-59 months and ensure provision of SAM treatment considering Covid-19 context

Agenda 5: Briefing from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups	
Discussion	Follow up actions
<p>Information Management (MN) TWG: Ms. Manisha Shrestha, member of IM TWG explained the following points in nutrition cluster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing collection of information of nutrition services. Out of 20 districts, the information was collected from 10 districts. • The information from remaining 10 districts will be collected within a week and compiled and disseminated. • Updated Nutrition 3W mapping-General for the nutrition intervention • Updated bi-weekly Covid-19 response tracking sheet • First phase of data collection is completed. There is data from only 10 districts. Partner are continuing the data collection in the remaining districts and health facilities. • First phase of data collection was share in the cluster meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate agencies to complete the nutrition information based on NIS from the remained districts planned for the first phase • Start data collection from 20 districts planned for second phase
<p>Micro-nutrient (MN) TWG: Mr. Naveen paudel, the Chair of MN TWG briefed that MN TWG has presented the outcomes of MN TWG discussed on the Vitamin A supplementation which was postponed by MoHP until further notice. Major points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is necessary to identify alternate strategy for mass supplementation of postponed vitamin -A campaign along with de-worming tablet distribution combined with MNP distribution and MUAC measurement, if feasible. • Since Vitamin A capsules have not arrived yet in the country, it is necessary to advocate with the government to get them at the earliest possible. • Developed concept note on VAS distribution using three service contact points: (1) Health facility (2) FCHVs/ Parents and Caretakers, and (3) Outreach Clinic (ORC) • Discussed cons and pros of Health Facility, FCHV/ Parents and Caretakers and ORC as service point. • Developed draft VAS guideline using health facility as point of Vitamin 'A' capsule distribution. • MN TWG partners decided to provide their written feedback/ comment on the draft VAS guideline COB by 27 May 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate with the government to bring Vitamin A capsules in the country on time and transport them • Identify the specific options for Vitamin A supplement to 6-59 months children and develop a guideline for the implementation. • Develop final draft of guidance note for Vitamin 'A' supplementation considering COVID-19
<p>IYCF TWG: On behalf of IYCF TWG, Ms Bhim Kumari Pun, Senior Manager from SUSAHARA/USAID briefed the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observed violence of BMS act while distribution relief package at different levels, so need to be activated Breastfeeding Protection & Protection Committee (BPPC) at federal level and form BPPC at province level to monitor BMS Act and develop reporting mechanism • Explore possible strategy /option to reach IYCF messages in line with interim guideline to FCHVs 	<p>IYCF TWG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize IYCF-E statement for nutrition cluster • Initiate process for developing NUTRITION App (standalone) • Continue monitoring compliance of BMS Act and ensuring dissemination of IYCF messages in line with the guidelines. • Initiate dialog with media persons from different forums • Coordinate with MoHP to reactivate BPPC committee at federal and form BPPC at province level to monitor BMS act and regulation • Coordinate and compile different mode of IYCF counselling in Lockdown situation and recommend the lesson learned to all cluster members

<p>IMAM TWG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket supplementary feeding (BSF) should be prioritized (with adequate funding from the government and partners) to prevent acute malnutrition in the context of protracted lockdown, higher GAM rates (especially in Terai region) and increasing HH food insecurity during the lean season. Preventive measures should also be aligned / coordinated with other sectors like WASH, food security etc. Additional strategies for screening of children for acute malnutrition should be explored beside EPI clinics, family/mother MUAC e.g. combining with MCHN follow up, targeted mobile services for screening from partners mobilizing FCHVs and HWs etc. Advocacy with local authorities (DAO, Palikas etc.) should be continued by partners and / through HOs for easy access of beneficiaries to health facilities / treatment Centres during the lock down. Procurement and distribution / transportation of nutrition commodities for IMAM services should be prioritized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop interim guidance note for Supplementary feeding (blanket and targeted) Develop mechanism to initiate Family/ Mother MUAC (videos, supply chain of MUAC tapes, global guidance etc.) along with other alternatives such as; EPI clinics, MCHN, targeted mobile services from partners mobilizing FCHVs and HWs etc. Develop IPC measures for NRH (status, challenges, assessment etc.) – some alternative modality Consider a strategy for weekly phone follow up and implementation.
<p>BCC TWG: On behalf of BCC TWG Mr. Kunj Joshi, the Chair of BCC TWG from NHEICC briefed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMS in local language related breastfeeding in COVID-19 for pregnant and lactating women sent out in 42 districts Breastfeeding radio PSA airing from FM stations in Karnali and Sudur Paschim province # episodes di “Hello Banchin Amaa” Radio programme covered nutrition issues linked with COVID-19. Half an hour radio interview with “Avenues” television on importance of breastfeeding, infant and young child feeding NHEICC with support from UNICEF and Suahaara will air breastfeeding related PSA from Nepal television and different FM stations from 26 May 2020 Dedicated radio programme discussing breastfeeding on Corona Care “Nepal Television and “Hello Banchin Amaa”, Corona Capsule- Radio programme Media landscape survey showed 67% people are getting information from television, 53% from the radio and around 30% from social media (social media reach is in Bagmati and Gandaki province) Reach and recall survey gives the information source but will be difficult to assess the effectiveness of each sectoral messages so need to build on the data collection mechanism that is used from another group Nutrition related BCC messages currently being monitored at different levels by central, provincial and district teams Analysis of audio-visual aids developed from the provinces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to assess the quality and numbers of materials produced or developed by the provincial level. Many of the materials will not come to the BCC group for review. With the decentralized structure its difficult to request for quality control. Not any PSAs related to nutrition received yet from the provinces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with IYCF and provincial nutrition clusters to review and standardize IYCF and other nutrition messages as well as audio visual aid across the provinces. Develop monitoring mechanism to monitor the messages disseminated through different media such as; FM radios, TV and others. Identify coverage status of nutrition messages whether nutrition messages cover throughout the country or not. Integrate and broadcast/disseminate nutrition messages in Corona capsules and Corona care programme broadcasting through FM radio and TV Organize a virtual interaction programme/conference with journalist from reputed national medias on IYCF and Breast Milk Substitute Act (1992) under leadership of FWD & NHIECC. Identify the contract numbers of FCHVs and develop mechanism to orient them on IYCF and other nutrition related topics

<p>Nutrition Assessment Group: On behalf of Nutrition Assessment Group Mr. Sanjay Rijal, Chair of assessment TWG updated the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposing to revise assessment TWG contact list Developed action plan for SMART survey including cost estimation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize concept note of SMART survey Assess for the funding arrangement Finalize action plan Coordinate for PPE and other IPC measures to conduct SMART survey
Agenda 6: NRH update and information sharing	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Dr. Shailesh Thakur, Narayani provincial hospital briefed about NRH Birgunj. No cases are admitted in the NRH. Children are not referred to the NRH due to lockdown and fear of Covid-19.</p>	<p>Follow up actions</p> <p>No any action point discussed. As explained by Dr. Thakur, there very difficult to run NRH at this context.</p>
<p>Remarks from Ms. Laxmi Ghimire, Under Secretary, the National Planning Commission (NPC)</p> <p>Ms. Laxmi Ghimire, Under Secretary of NPC during her remarks highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> She was very happy by hearing the progress made by provincial nutrition clusters and nutrition cluster TWG. Very good progress has been made throughout the country. In order to see the socio-economic impacts of the Corona-19 in Nepal including global lesson learned, NPC formed a committee where Prof. Fr. Geeta Bhakta Joshi, former member of NPC is also a member of that committee. 	
<p>Remarks from Professor Dr. Madhu Dixit Devkota:</p> <p>Professor Dr. Madhu Dixit Devkota, technical expert on nutrition and member of High-Level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee, in her short remarks highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanked to all organizers and participants of the cluster meeting The stigma against Corona-19 infected people need to be addressed. It is also needed to communicate to MoHP to address this issue also. The term “Sealed” using for the areas of Corona-19 positive cases is not appropriate. It would be appreciated if MoHP replace this term with other appropriate term also. During this Covid-19 pandemic and lock down situation, wasting among the small children can be increased and wasted children are at more risk of morbidity and mortality. Therefore, more attention should be given on this matter. This is also because of potential disruptions of the nutrition services and undernutrition makes them more susceptible to infection. Therefore, attention is required as earliest as possible 	
Closing of the meeting and next nutrition cluster meeting	
<p>Mr. Anirudra Sharma, the nutrition cluster co-lead and meeting facilitators thanked to the meeting Chair for his leadership and coordination and to all participants for their active participation and highlighted the following agreed action points from the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplementation of Vitamin A capsules is a priority for all of us therefore, it was requested to all provinces to come up with the implementation plan in the next cluster meeting. Identify alternative mode of screening in all areas to find acute malnutrition and their management. Federal nutrition cluster will be working on supplementary feeding programme also. It is also necessary to finalize nutrition cluster TOR for all provinces and preparation and finalization of Monsoon as well as Covid-19 response plan for provinces. <p>With this, Mr. Anirudra Sharma requested to <u>Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition section of FWD and Federal level nutrition cluster lead</u> to close the meeting with his remarks. During the remarks, Mr. Parajuli highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He thanked to all participants including provincial health Directors and other representatives from NPC, MOFAGA, all cluster members from federal and provincial nutrition cluster as well as other invitees; He also focused to implement Vitamin A supplementation in all provinces and requested to all provincial health directorate to come up with the specific plan in the next cluster meeting 	

- He also highlighted BCC TWG to work on the leaflets on nutrition BCC message and send to all provinces. Before that, he also requested to all provinces to send the BCC materials to the BCC TWG as earliest as possible to make standardize the message.
- Requested IMAM TWG to prepare supplementary feeding guidance note in leadership of WFP and submit in the next nutrition cluster meeting.
- Nutrition commodities, wherever is gaps will be fulfilled soon. However, some commodities are required to province 3 as soon as possible.
- MUAC tape if available, we should provide to all provinces.
- He closed the meeting by announcing the next nutrition cluster meeting to be held on **Friday, 16 Jestha 2077 (29 May 2020) from 11:00 to 13:00 hrs. via zoom link.**

The zoom link and agenda for next meeting will be shared as soon as possible.

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. Professor Dr. Madhu Dixit Devkota, Nutrition expert, High Level Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat
4. Mr. Harish Chand Shah, Provincial Health directorate, Province 2
5. Ms. Laxmi Ghimire, Under Secretary, NPC
6. Mr. Kunja Joshi, Senior Health Education Administrator, NHEICC
7. Dr. Bhushan Mishra from PHD, Sudurpaschim Province
8. Mr. Shambhu Kafle, PHA, PHD Bagamati province
9. Dr. Shailesh Thakur, Narayani Provincial Hospital, Birgunj
10. Mr. Minraj Joshi, health Assistant, Sudur Paschim Province
11. Ms. Kalpana Pandey, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
12. Ms. Meena Mote, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
13. Mr. Nawaraj Sharma, Health Education and Communication Officer, PHD, Gandaki Province
14. Mr. Om Prakash Yadav, Health Assistant, PHD, Province 1
15. Mr. Dharmendra Neupane, Pharmacy Officer, PHD, Karnali province
16. Mr. Debendra Adhikari, Nutrition Specialist, USAID
17. Ms. Dale Davis, Country Representative, HKI
18. Ms. Pooja Pandey Rana, Deputy Chief of the Party, Suahaara II/USAID
19. Mr. Anteneh Grima, Nutrition Advisor, WFP
20. Ms. Naomi Saville, Nutritionist, WFP
21. Ms. Bhim Kumari Pun, Senior Manager, Suahaara II
22. Mr. Santosh Acharya, Programme Officer, UN Women
23. Mr. Jeevan Ghimire, Health policy Officer, DFID
24. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Bhujel, Nutrition officer, UNICEF
25. Mr. Sanjay Rijal, M and E officer, UNICEF
26. Ms. Anju Adhikari, Nutrition officer, UNICEF/FWD
27. Mr. Indra Bhujel, Governance Expert, UNICEF
28. Ms. Astha Thapa, PHD, Province number 1
29. Ms. Sabina Hora, Nutrition and IEC Experts/HKI
30. Mr. Sujay Nepali Bhattacharya, Head of Health and Nutrition department, ACF
31. Ms. Manisha Katwal, Senior Program Officer, Health and Nutrition, ACF
32. Ms. Pabitra Sapkota MSNP Coordinator, Karnali Province
33. Mr. Sandesh Adhikari, NTAG
34. Mr. Binod Kumar Aryal, Senior programme Manager, GHAN
35. Ms. Abhilasha Gurung, World Vision International
36. Ms. Sarita Yadav, NRH Birgunj
37. Mr. Ngima T. Sherpa, Chairperson, HHES
38. Ms. Aarju Hamal, Nutrition Officer, HHES
39. Dr. Maureen Dariang, Lead Advisor, NHSSP
40. Ms. Nisha Singh, Knowledge Management Officer, Aasman Nepal
41. Mr. Phulgendra Prasad Singh, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
42. Ms Sumi Maskey, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
43. Dr. Krishna Bista, Chairperson, Nepal Pediatric Society
44. Ms. Dibya Manandhar Rijal, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
45. Mr. Prakash Joshi, Nutrition Officer UNICEF
46. Ms Bindu Panthi, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
47. Mr Sudip Chiluwal, Program Coordinator, NEPHEG
48. Mr. Nanda Adhikari, Coordinators, SDPC
49. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP, Karnali Province

50. Mr. Raj Nandan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, SUA AHARA II /USAID
51. Mr. Nitesh Shrestha, Community Nutrition Specialist, Suaahara II/USAID
52. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal, Care Nepal
53. Mr. Lokendra Thapa, HKI/USAID
54. Mr. Yam GC, HKI/USAID
55. Mr. Sunil Khatiwada, HKI /USAID
56. Ms. Femila Sapkota, Nutrition Manager, SUA AHARA II /USAID
57. Mr. Kp Lamsal, WFP/FWD
58. Mr. Gyanendra Dawadi, MSNP coordinator
59. Mr. Rajendra Adhikari, Suaahara II/USAID, Surkhet
60. Mr. Bharat Sarma - Program Coordinator/Provincial Focal person Province-1, Suaahara II/USAID
61. Mr. Bhumishwar Sharma-MSNP Coordinator, MoFAGA
62. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal-program coordinator/provincial focal person, province-3, Suaahara II/USAID
63. Mr. Atul Upadhyay, CEO, Baliyo Nepal Nutrition Initiative
64. Ms. Thuma Pun, Nursing Officer, Health Directorate/ province 5
65. Ms. Raj Kumar Mahato, World Health Organization, Provincial Health Officer, Bagmati Province
66. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator- Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
67. Mr. Shraddha Manandhar, Program Coordinator, Save the Children
68. Mr. Manis Thakur, MSNP Coordinator, Saptari
69. Mr. Hemanta Jha, MSNP Coordinator (Province #2)
70. Ms. Ritika Dahal, MSNP Coordinator (Bagmati Province)
71. Mr. Bhumi Sharma, MSNP Coordinator (Gandaki Province and Province #5)
72. Mr. Man Bahadur Kunwar, MSNP Coordinator (Sudur Pashchim Province)
73. Mr. Bhola Gautam, Reporting and Documentation Officer, MoFAGA
74. Mr Deepak Adhikari, Logistic Management Officer, Logistic Management Division, Kathmandu
75. Ms. Laxmi Ghimire, Program Director, NPC
76. Mr. Raj Nandan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, Suaahara II/USAID
77. Mr. Lokendra Thapa HKI/SUA AHARA/USAID Program Coordinator, Sudurpaschim Province
78. Ms. Puja Chand Dadeldhura NRH, Program Manager.
79. Ms. Prabha Singh, Surkhet NRH
80. Ms. Indra Bhatta, Kanchanpur NRH
81. Ms. Sunita Rimal, NYF, Kathmandu
82. Mr. Binod Kumar Aryal, GHAN
83. Ms. Sanjeev Lama Ghishing, DC, Rautahat/Sarlahi, MSNP, MoFAGA
84. Ms. Chhamkala Kafle program manager (Bharatpur NRH)
85. Ms. Kusum K. C. NRH coordinator from Dailekh
86. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Welthungerhilfe
87. Ms. Gita Bista, NRH Kailali

Annex 2: Major Cluster Updates (as of 22 May 2020):

सूचाङ्क	विश्वको अवस्था	नेपालको अवस्था
संक्रमण देखिएको	५,१३१,२४४	४५७
मृत्यु भएका	३३१,०८७	०३
निको भएका	२,०४४,७९५	४९
PCR परिक्षण गरिएको		३८,७३७
RDT परिक्षण गरिएको		७८,६९५
क्वारेन्टाइनमा		२५,०३०
आइसोलेसनमा (पुस्टि भएका केशहरु)		४०२

- Ongoing counselling of mothers/caregivers on IYCF and maternal nutrition including awareness on COVID-19 through mobile phone focusing to G1000D households in different districts.
- IMAM and IYCF guidance notes are already in the field with health workers and community outreach workers for interim use in Covid-19 context.
- Ongoing airing the BCC messages on nutrition in Covid-19 context from more than 125 FM radio services nationwide.
- Health and Nutrition cluster has been established in all 7 provinces and TOR drafted by all provincial nutrition cluster.
- RUTF are already available in approximately 90 per cent OTCs for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition.
- Ongoing distribution of Supercereal (Poshilo pitho) in five Karnali districts
- Family Welfare Division has been continuously monitoring nutrition supplies through LMIS, and initiated procurement process of MNP and RUTF.
- Vitamin A Capsules will be in country by next week.
- Ongoing discussion to manage supplementary feeding programme to prevent acute malnutrition of under five children, pregnant and lactating women.
- NPC circulated a letter to all 7 Provincial Policy and Planning Commission to prioritise nutrition considering Covid-19 context. The meetings of nutrition and food security steering committees are being organized at different provinces and discussions are ongoing to focus COVID-19 situation. Similarly, MOFAGA has been also guiding local governments to address nutrition issues along with nutrition friendly relief package.
- Apart from health workers, MSNP coordinators, MSNP volunteers, staff members from Suahaara programme, Staff members, ACF other CSOs are also working at palika levels and coordinating local governments and health facilities to continue nutrition services.
- Supported nutrition commodities in the areas of measles outbreak as; (i) **Dhading district:** supported 8,000 capsule of Vitamin A, 480 box (2 Cartoon) of MNP, MUAC tape 45 pieces of MUAC tape and 6,000 tablets of Albendazole to Gajuri and Benighat Rorang Rural Municipalities During immunization, 6-59 months children were screened and 25 SAM children are identified. FWD already asked to central Medical Store, Pathalaya to transport 30 cartons of RUTF to Dhading district to treat these SAM children; (ii) **Gorkha district:** There was also a measles outbreak in Gandaki Rural

Municipality and Sahid Lakhan Thapa Rural Municipality of Gorkha district. FWD supported 7000 capsule of Vitamin A and 20 pieces of MUAC Tapes.

- Finalized CIVID-19 response plan with 1,500 case scenario and now being reviewed considering 10,000 caseload scenarios
- Prepared federal level draft monsoon preparedness plan (will be finalized soon)

Annex 3: Progress Trackers against the Consolidated Action Point of 15 May 2020

SN	Action Points	Progress	Remarks
Federal level			
1.	Request NPC to organize Nutrition and Food Security Coordination Committee (NNFSCC) meeting	NPC has been requested for NNFSCC meeting; NPC has already circulated a letter to all 7 provincial NFSSC for nutrition planning considering Covid-19 context	
2.	Coordinate with Food Security Cluster to strengthen nutrition and food security response through coordinated way	There is a plan to meet FSC next week.	
3.	Coordinate with all 7 Provincial Health Directorate to estimate essential nutrition supplies and FWD to compile these supplies from all 7 Provinces. .	Need to hear from 7 provinces	
4.	FWD to coordinate for IPC measures and social distancing in the NRH and revitalize all NRH for the treatment of SAM and/with medical complications.	IPC Measures for NRH??? Not yet achieved.	
5.	Organize next nutrition cluster meeting on Friday, 09 Jestha 2077 (22 May 2020) from 11:00 to 13:00 hrs. via zoom link. Will share the agenda as soon as possible.	Meeting ongoing SFP discussion ongoing – discussion ongoing with NPC and DOHS	
Technical Working Groups			
6.	Micronutrient TWG: Identify the specific options for Vitamin A supplement to 6-59 months children and develop a guideline for the implementation.	MN TWG drafted a guideline and circulated to nutrition cluster for comments	
7.	IYCF TWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share draft version of IYCF joint statement among the IYCF TWG members to review. The final version will be shared in upcoming Nutrition cluster meeting. Organize a virtual conference with journalist from reputed national medias on IYCF and Breast Milk Substitute Act (1992) under leadership of FWD & NHIECC Initiate process for developing NUTRITION App (standalone) Continue monitoring compliance of BMS Act and ensuring dissimulation of IYCF messages in line with the guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final draft of the joint statement is submitted to nutrition cluster. The virtual meeting with medias has been stopped now because BCC TWG coordinate with the media and inform to the cluster. Administrative process for developing nutrition app is initiated Compliance of BMC act and regulation monitoring process need to design and IYCF messaging has been ongoing – further discussion will be done in TWG next week for concrete action plan 	
8.	Information Management (MN) TWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile the collected data from the first phase data of nutrition service monitoring and share it in the next cluster meeting. Start second phase data collection in additional 20 districts from next week. 	Information collection process not completed from the first phase 20 districts, still to collect from Sankhuwasabha, Dhanusha, Bara, Parsa, Pasuwa, Dhading, Makwanpur, Gorkha, Dadeldhura and Achham. The concerned agencies are asked to complete the	

		information collection process before next cluster meeting and submit to the Chair of IM TWG	
9.	IMAM TWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate / recommend Nutrition Cluster to priorities BSF • Advocate / recommend Nutrition Cluster to update IMAM interim guidance note to include screening of children for acute malnutrition and any other missing technical guidance • Advocate with Nutrition cluster to procure nutrition commodities for IMAM services soon 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	
10.	BCC TWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the program producer to advocate for breast milk instead of the formula milk with the Avenues Television team. • Monitor the effectiveness and coverage of nutrition messages broadcasted through different media. • Suaahara to develop the PSA on one-minute importance of breastfeeding not feeding the formula milk and share with the members for wider dissemination from next week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed guided program with adding Sindhupalchok incident will be airing from next week at 7:30 to 8:00 • Media landscape survey showed 67% people are getting information from television, 53% from the radio and around 30% from social media (social media reach is in Bagmati and Gandaki province) • SMS in local language related breastfeeding in COVID-19 for pregnant and lactating women sent out in 42 districts • Breastfeeding radio PSA airing from FM stations ongoing in all provinces • # episodes di “Hello Banchin Amaa” Radio programme covered nutrition issues linked with COVID-19. • Existing PSA being reviewed in the context of COVID-19 and will be adapted to the context. • Difficult to assess the quality and numbers of materials produced or developed by the provincial level. • Many of the materials will not come to the BCC group for review. With the decentralized structure it’s difficult to request for quality control. 	
11.	Nutrition Assessment Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the list of the members of ATWG • Prepare draft Concept note on SMART Survey, identify partners and propose in the next cluster meeting • Prepare workplan of ATWG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposing to update the contact list of assessment TWG • Concept note for SMART survey drafted, forwarded to all TWG members and received comments for finalization • Developed action plan for SMART survey 	
12.	Contingency Planning (CP) TWG: Share final draft of monsoon preparedness and response plan to all TWG members as well as nutrition cluster members.	Circulated monsoon preparedness plan to nutrition cluster members and receiving comments for finalization	

Province Number 1			
13.	Provide commodity mapping to the federal nutrition cluster for further supply of nutrition commodities to provincial number one.	It is already completed and already shared at national nutrition cluster meeting	
14.	Involve district health offices during next nutrition cluster meeting and discuss for service continuity/implementation and strengthened coordination mechanism.	H&N cluster meeting has been ongoing weekly basis in province number 1	
15.	Develop monsoon preparedness and response plan considering covid-19 context also.	Further discussion will be done in next H&N cluster meeting of province number 1	
16.	Facilitate nutrition rehabilitation homes of Province number one to continue SAM admission and treatment.	No NRH continued in province number one. Ongoing discussion to continue all three NRH of Province number one	
17.	Analyse the DHIS2 data to compare the transported nutrition commodities with the number of beneficiaries who were provided nutrition services. It will help the gaps in commodities and other support required.	Completed	
Province Number 2			
18.	Immediate after lockdown over, initiate mass screening of all 6-59 months children and bring SAM children to the OTCs for treatment. Even in this situation, try to initiate screening of 6-59 months children and bring SAM children to the OTCs for children following interim IMAM guidance note.	Its pending now	
19.	Develop monsoon preparedness and response plan considering covid-19 context also.	Both plans are in draft version and will discuss in the next Provincial H&N cluster meeting for finalization	
20.	Follow up with MoSD for cost sharing for SMART survey and UNICEF to support technical assistance and financial assistance with cost sharing basis with MoSD of province number two.	MoSD agreed to conduct SMART survey with cost sharing basis	
21.	Analyse the DHIS2 data to compare the transported nutrition commodities with the number of beneficiaries who were provided nutrition services. It will help the gaps in commodities and other support required.	Completed	
Bagmati Province			
22.	Family Welfare Division to provide technical assistance and timely guidance for nutrition in emergency response in Bagmati Province.	Ongoing	
23.	Develop monsoon preparedness and response plan considering covid-19 context also.	Plan to talk in next health and nutrition cluster meeting	
24.	Analyse the DHIS2 data to compare the transported nutrition commodities with the number of beneficiaries who were provided nutrition services. It will help the gaps in commodities and other support required.	Completed	
Gandaki Province			
25.	Establish health and nutrition cluster in Gandaki Province.	Established H&N cluster on 08 May 2020 and ongoing meeting and other actions smoothly	

26.	Request central medical Stores for nutrition commodities.	Received 12 cartoons MNP and 2 cartoon F75 from Province 5.	
27.	Provincial health directorate to find better options to continue disrupted nutrition services.	Gandaki Province has high level commitments to continue disrupted nutrition services and ongoing interactions	
28.	Develop monsoon preparedness and response plan considering covid-19 context also.	Its is not started yet. Will be started to draft both preparedness and response plans	
29.	Follow up of three NRH to continue treatment of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).	NRH are not functional yet	
30.	Analyse the DHIS2 data to compare the transported nutrition commodities with the number of beneficiaries who were provided nutrition services. It will help the gaps in commodities and other support required.	Not reported	
Province Number 5			
31.	Establish health and nutrition cluster by next nutrition cluster meeting.	Established H&N cluster and two meeting of H&N cluster completed.	
32.	Complete 4w mapping of nutrition stakeholders in the province.	Done.	
33.	Resume stopped functions of NRH for the treatment of children with SAM.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing discussion to continue NRH of Nepalgunj Hospital. NRH of Lumbini provincial hospital is functioning and 3 new case are under treatment and stock of F75, F100, and ReSoMal is enough for 6 months. 	
34.	Develop monsoon and Covid-19 response plan for response	proceed for finalization of draft Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan considering the COVID-19 context.	
35.	Identify the actual logistics for IMAM programme for all districts and develop supply plan for province number five accordingly.	As of now, no gap is identified at district level except RUTF in Bardiya.	
36.	Analyse the DHIS2 data to compare the transported nutrition commodities with the number of beneficiaries who were provided nutrition services. It will help the gaps in commodities and other support required.	Completed data analysis of DHIS 2 on nutrition, the data will also be utilized while preparing Covid-19 and monsoon response plan	
Karnali Province			
37.	Follow up for service continuity of all districts in the province.	On-going	
38.	Develop and endorse ToR for health and nutrition cluster.	ToR of H&N cluster already developed by co-leads (WHO and UNICEF) and inputs received from all members; and PHD is reviewing it.	
39.	Develop and endorse monsoon preparedness plan.	UNICEF has been drafting both monsoon and Covid-19 response plan and will be shared to all cluster members before next nutrition cluster meeting.	
40.	Analyze DHIS2 data and based on the outcome of the analysis, develop response plan for COVID-19 and monsoon preparedness. For that, involve EDPs for support.	Two qtrs. DHIS2 data for this FY has been analyzed with the support from UNICEF and we will further act on this.	

41.	Initiate procurement process of supplementary foods for 5 districts of Karnali Province	HSD has shared procurement plans with FWD for 2077/2078 F/Y.	
Sudur Paschim province			
42.	Prepare provincial monsoon preparedness and response plan.	With the support from UNICEF, drafted monsoon preparedness and response plan and now it's been revised now.	
43.	Monitoring of the ongoing nutrition services.	On-going, it has been conducted from distance via telephonic conversation.	
44.	Support to resume disrupted functions of nutrition rehabilitation homes for the treatment of children with SAM.	Dhangadhi NRH has already operated whereas, Kanchanpur & Dadeldhura NRH will take some time to be functional as those NRHs are converted to isolation wards for treatment of COVID-19.	
45.	Continue all NRH in the province.	Status as of above.	
46.	Prepare provincial monsoon preparedness and response plan.	With the support from UNICEF monsoon preparedness and response plan was drafted in 2019, it is been revised now.	