

# 17<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING Via ZOOM LINK

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

FRIDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> Shrawan 2077 (17<sup>th</sup> July 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 17th 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 100 plus people from different organizations were invited out of which 93 plus attended via zoom link.

AGENDA FOR NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING	
Time	Agenda Items
11:00 AM	1. Chair of the meeting, welcome and sharing of meeting agenda 2. Major updates: Chair of the meeting, Nutrition cluster lead 3. Updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors) – major briefs/key achievements on the action points, lesson learned from national Vitamin A Campaign and monsoon preparedness 4. Monsoon preparedness
To	5. Briefing of each TWG and next steps: 6 TWGs: (i) IMAM (ii) IYCF, (iii) BCC, (iv) IM, (v) Assessment, (vi) (MN)
01:10 PM	6. Remarks: DOHS/MoHP - Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Director General 7. Remarks: NPC – Laxmi Ghimire, Programme Director 8. Remarks with thanksgiving to all participants: Dr. Bhim Singh Tinkari, Director, FWD/DoHS/MoHP 9. Remarks with closing of the meeting: Chair of the meeting - Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, nutrition cluster lead

MAJOR DISCUSSIONS/ACTION POINTS	
<b>Agenda 1: Chair of the meeting, scenario setting, welcome and sharing of meeting agenda</b>	
<b>Chair of the Meeting:</b> 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.	
<b>Welcome to the participants and agenda sharing:</b> Chair of the meeting welcome to the all participants and Co-chair shared the meeting agenda as mention above.	
This was the 17 <sup>th</sup> virtual nutrition cluster meeting after COVID-19 Global Pandemic disease (COVID 19) arise. In this meeting, altogether 93 plus participants attended ( <a href="#">see annex 1 for detail of the participants</a> ).	
<b>Agenda 2: Major briefing from nutrition cluster:</b>	
Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Nutrition cluster-lead presented <b>the Global and National situation of Covid-19 and the major achievements of nutrition cluster</b> . The major briefing presented by Mr. Parajuli has been attached in the <b>annex 2</b> . After the major briefing, Mr. Anirudra Sharma facilitated the meeting following the agenda:	
<b>Agenda 3: Progress updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors) focusing on nutrition service continuity and monitoring of ongoing nutrition services</b>	
Discussion	Follow up actions
<b>Province number 1:</b> Mr. Chandra Dev Mehta, Provincial Health Director updated the major highlights as follows: <b>Vitamin A:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vitamin A capsules and albendazole reached on time to 14 districts and 137 local levels and administered Vitamin A capsules on 6 and 7 July 2020 and the campaign was held successfully.</li> <li>Substantive coordination, communication with PHD/MoSD, UNICEF, MSNP and Suaahara team</li> <li>Supported for process monitoring from PHD/MoSD, health offices/facilities, UNICEF/MSNP team and Suaahara team</li> </ul> <b>Monsoon and flood status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect, compile and disseminate the coverage report of national Vitamin A campaign in the next cluster meeting</li> <li>Follow up the nutrition commodities available at Provincial health logistic management center and districts health warehouse available for emergency response.</li> <li>Readiness to address nutrition issues in Monsoon emergencies considering COVID-19 context.</li> <li>Follow up to endorse nutrition in emergency response plans (COVID-19 and Monsoon) for the province and TOR of H&amp;N cluster.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of 13 July 2020: incidents of floods and landslides appeared in 15 local levels of 6 districts (Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Sankhuwasabha, Tehrathu and Teplejung districts)</li> <li>Landslides observed due to heavy flooding in Sankhuwasabha and Sunsari dharan and other districts .</li> </ul> <p><b>Sankhuwasabha: (as reported from Suaahara)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>86 HH destroyed and 350 people ( 3 pregnant and 25 U5 children) are affected from landslide in Silichong Rural Municipality- 4 siswakhola</li> <li>11 people died including one pregnant woman.</li> <li>One health facility (siswakhola) destroyed.</li> <li>The local level manages two rescue centers and providing basic food, but no any special support and attention for pregnant and lactating mother.</li> <li>The health coordinator requested for the support of mattress and food items for small children.</li> </ul> <p><b>MSNP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MSNP Coordinators and volunteers have coordinated all 26-local levels of Pancthar, Udayapur &amp; Khotang to mainstream nutrition in local level planning and allocated budget in nutrition to support 1000 days' mothers, children and adolescent.</li> <li>MSNP team facilitated for local level planning and more than NPR 10 million allocated from local level and province for MSNP implementation</li> </ul> <p><b>Suaahara:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk communication and community engagement activities (radio program, phone counselling, SMS) ongoing through Suaahara frontline workers.</li> <li>Communicating messages to pregnant women and motivating them to visit health facilities.</li> <li>Supporting to continue opening of basic health service in the health facilities.</li> <li>Support to conduct several nutrition related activities and program organized by Local government allocated fund.</li> <li>Participate and support for local level planning and annual assembly of local level.</li> <li>Start limited mobilization of front-line workers in green zone districts.</li> <li>Identified 2 SAM Case and enroll in OTC center and follow up several (25) SAM/MAM case in community level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with local government and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring.</li> <li>Continue to manage nutrition interventions (If needed) to the children under the age of five and PLWs who are in quarantine camps and isolation wards.</li> <li>Follow safety precautions (may me mother MUAC) to children age 6-59 months and bring SAM children to OTC and NRH for the treatment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Province number 2:</b>  <b>Mr. Harishchandra Shah, the Director of Provincial Health Directorate (PHD) and Mr. Phulgendra Prasad Singh, Nutrition officer of UNICEF of province number 2 briefed the following points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNICEF supported PHD and PHLMC to transport the Vitamin A and Albendazole to 4 out of 8 districts (Saptari, Siraha, Sarlahi and Rautahat)</li> <li>7800 FCHVs engaged and mobilized to distribute the Vitamin A, Albendazole, MNP and conduct MUAC screening in Province 2.</li> <li>Approximately 700,000 children of 6-59 months reached for Vitamin A and 650,000 children of 12-59 months for de-worming in Province 2 though GON and EDPs support.</li> <li>Vitamin A distribution was monitored by GON staff as well as staff of EDPs.</li> <li>IPC materials (Mask, Sanitizer, Gloves, Bucket Mug, Chuna) were provided to FCHVs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect, compile and disseminate the coverage report of national Vitamin A campaign in the next cluster meeting</li> <li>Follow up the nutrition commodities available at Provincial health logistic management center and districts health warehouse available for emergency response.</li> <li>Readiness to address nutrition issues in Monsoon emergencies considering COBID-19 context.</li> <li>campaign effectively throughout the province.</li> <li>Coordinating with local government and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring.</li> <li>Follow safety precautions (may me mother MUAC) to children age 6-59 months and bring SAM children to OTC and NRH for the treatment.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCHV had knowledge on social distancing, but it was challenging to maintain</li> <li>&gt;90% coverage could be expected in P2 based on the monitoring visit</li> <li>Provincial Health and Nutrition Cluster meeting was held on 16 July 2020 which was focused on the Monsoon Preparedness and Response</li> <li>A Technical working group has been formed to prepare and finalize the Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan of P2 by 22 July 2020.</li> <li>Decided to circulate a letter from Health Directorate to all the Health Offices for the Monsoon Preparedness and Response which includes activation of H and N cluster in the district, pre-positioning of the health and nutrition commodities/medicines, coordination with local levels/hospitals for the preparedness</li> <li>4 monitoring teams are formed to monitor the readiness of the Health Offices, Hospitals and local levels of P2 for the response of monsoon.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Bagmati province:</b>  <b>Mr. Ramesh Adhikari, Director and Mr. Shambhu Kafle, Public Health Administrator briefed following points:</b>  <b>Vitamin A:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vitamin A and albendazole reached timely to 13 districts and 137 local levels and administered in 6-7 July 2020</li> <li>Substantive coordination, communication with PHD/MoSD, UNICEF and Suaahara team (184 frontline worker)</li> </ul> <p><b>Monsoon Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landslides and heavy rain reported in Dolakha, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Makawanpur, Ramechhap, Rasuwa and Sindhuli</li> <li>Heavy rain reported in Bhotekoshi on 24 Ashar (8<sup>th</sup> July 2020) Barhrabise and Bhotekoshi Rural Municipalities in Sindhupalchowk.</li> <li>Death: 2, missing people: 23, affected family: 48, Injured: 14, house damaged (private): 46</li> <li>District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) handover relief materials (tripal, mattress, utensils and clothes) to LDMC of Bhotekoshi and Bahrabise.</li> <li>NRH in Bharatpur functional (7 cased undertreatment and 1 new admission) Sunakothe, Chautara and Hetauda: quarantine and OPD service)</li> <li>RUTF sent to Dhading, Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk</li> <li>Suaahara completed remaining one -district level orientation -on COVID-19 in Sindhupalchok for Health Coordinators.</li> <li>Health facility follow up to ensure Health and Nutrition commodity is continue from Suaahara technical staffs.</li> <li>Suaahara Resource Person (Dr.) supporting PHD to carry out COVID activities-Quarantine, Isolation, CICT, PTT, RRT and so on...</li> <li>Risk communication and community engagement activities (radio program, phone counselling, SMS) ongoing through Suaahara program. Till date total HHs-1,56,850 Lactating mothers – 41,772 and Pregnant women-10098 are counselled by Suaahara staffs on COVID prevention and Nutrition.</li> <li>Pregnant women are motivated and encouraged to visit Health Facility with information of health facility providing services in this pandemic time as well.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect, compile and disseminate the coverage report of national Vitamin A campaign in the next cluster meeting</li> <li>Follow up the nutrition commodities available at Provincial health logistic management center and districts health warehouse available for emergency response.</li> <li>Readiness to address nutrition issues in Monsoon emergencies considering COBID-19 context.</li> <li>Follow up to endorse nutrition in emergency response plans (COVID-19 and Monsoon) for the province and TOR of H&amp;N cluster.</li> <li>Coordinating with local government and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring.</li> <li>.</li> <li>Facilitate to continue the NRH of Sunakothe and Sindhupalchowk Hospital to initiate the treatment of SAM children.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gandaki Province:</b>  <b>Dr. Binod Bindu Sharma, Director of Provincial Health Directorate briefed the following points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accomplished National Vitamin A campaign in all 11 districts on scheduled date &amp; time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect, compile and disseminate the coverage report of national Vitamin A campaign in the next cluster meeting</li> <li>Follow up the nutrition commodities available at Provincial health logistic management center and</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsement process of Provincial Nutrition Response plan is almost concluded.</li> <li>• Due to the natural disaster, several human casualties including loss of properties are observed in Myagdi, Lamjung, Tanhun, Syangja and Kaski districts of Gandaki Province.</li> <li>• One pregnant woman and one lactating mother having 5 days' neonate were rescued by helicopter (local efforts) from Myagdi disaster.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• districts health warehouse available for emergency response.</li> <li>• Readiness to address nutrition issues in Monsoon emergencies considering COVID-19 context.</li> <li>• Follow up to endorse nutrition in emergency response plans (COVID-19 and Monsoon) for the province and TOR of H&amp;N cluster.</li> <li>• Coordinating with local government and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Province number 5:</b> <b>Mr. Roshan Raj Chaudhary, Director of Provincial Health Directorate briefed the following points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In province 5, total 4015 were infected by COVID -19. out of those 3388 have already recovered and 614 are in services.</li> <li>• A smaller number of people are in quarantine. Because of strong support of federal, provincial, government, development partners and stakeholders we are and will be treat them successfully.</li> <li>• During this pandemic we successfully complete the vitamin-A in all palikas of province 5. Despite using of social safety measures, we felt little difficulty in practical way of it.</li> <li>• UNICEF is supporting to prepare COVID-19 and Mansoon preparedness and response plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACF supporting for regular IMAM program in Nawalparasi west.</li> <li>• Also providing some relief amount to 225 household of the same districts. And planning to reach 675 household in the days ahead.</li> <li>• Meanwhile familiarize and implement the concept of Family MUAC in hard to reach areas of Nawalparasi west and while implementing feel that this concept will go more further ahead to bring assess malnourished children at community level through mothers.</li> </ul> <p><b>MSNP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the support of MSNP team in MSNP districts with in this two-week distributed poshilo jhola to 4954 household.</li> <li>• In Regular manner from 9 FM BCC message is regularly circulated to stop the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• MSNP coordinators and field supervisors are supporting to incorporate MSNP in nutrition specific and sensitive interventions in periodic plan and annual budget.</li> </ul> <p><b>SUA AHARA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In districts such as Nawalparasi, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Bardiya SUA AHARA had supported five Human resources to work in close coordination with district focal person for various work related to health and nutrition interventions on COVID-19. In addition, SUA AHARA had also supported various materials such as Flyers, Mask to all 12 districts of this province.</li> <li>• For health and nutrition intervention regular follow with HFs/OTCS are being done in regular manner.</li> <li>• The team also provide a strong support to flood affected palikas of Gulmi districts regarding counselling on safe drinking water and coordination with ward focal person for distribution of relief materials to the affected peoples.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect, compile and disseminate the coverage report of national Vitamin A campaign in the next cluster meeting</li> <li>• Follow up the nutrition commodities available at Provincial health logistic management center and districts health warehouse available for emergency response.</li> <li>• Readiness to address nutrition issues in Monsoon emergencies considering COVID-19 context.</li> <li>• Follow up to endorse nutrition in emergency response plans (COVID-19 and Monsoon) for the province and TOR of H&amp;N cluster.</li> <li>• Coordinating with local government and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Karnali province:</b> <b>Mr. Dharmendra Neupane, Provincial Logistic Management Center briefed the following points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Nutrition cluster formed, and functional. <b>Under overall MSNP activities</b>, supported data collection, quarantines, relief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect, compile and disseminate the coverage report of national Vitamin A campaign in the next cluster meeting</li> <li>• Follow up the nutrition commodities available at Provincial health logistic management center and</li> </ul>

<p>distribution, IMAM programme, 1,852 nutrition bags distributed to 1000 days HHs, Palika level NFSSC meetings held, nutrition contingency plans prepared, annual budget plan meetings for 2077/2078 F/Y, dissemination of letters and interim guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monsoon preparedness plan has been drafted <b>by UNICEF</b> and is under review by PHSD, translation in Nepali ongoing and with support from UNICEF, nutrition BCC messages related to COVID-19 are being aired from different 14 FMs of the province covering all districts of the province.</li> <li>• 86.472 mt Super Cereal distributed till now in 126 HF's out of 128 HF's for the month of June 2020 with technical and distribution</li> </ul>	<p>districts health warehouse available for emergency response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readiness to address nutrition issues in Monsoon emergencies considering COVID-19 context.</li> <li>• Follow up to endorse nutrition in emergency response plans (COVID-19 and Monsoon) for the province and TOR of H&amp;N cluster.</li> <li>• Coordinating with local government and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sudur Paschim province:</b>  <b>Mr. Min Raj Joshi, Provincial Health Directorate of Sudurpaschim Province briefed the following points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vitamin A campaign successfully conducted. (Big thanks to UNICEF, SAAHARA, WVI and other EDPs)</li> <li>• UNICEF supported in transportation of Vitamin A, deworming tab to Baitadi and Bajhang.</li> <li>• UNICEF supported transportation of RUTF, F-75, F-100 &amp; ReSoMAL to Doti, Achham, Bajhang and Darchula.</li> <li>• Suaahara and UNICEF supported for <b>(Suaahara-1,22,375 flyers and 3,595 flex, UNICEF-19,000 flyers and 73 flex) flyer and flex with messages on child nutrition, maternal nutrition and mgmt of malnutrition targeting COVID</b> for BCC component which will be widely distribution in Quarantine, HF's etc.</li> <li>• SAAHARA supported <b>mask (24,982 Mask) and sanitizer (6,048 bottle Sanitizer)</b> to all 88 paliak's FCHVs to targeting Vitamin A campaign.</li> <li>• With the support from UNICEF and SAAHARA, nutrition BCC messages are being aired in three different languages <b>(Nepali, Doteli and Tharu)</b> regularly from different <b>42 Local FMs</b> of the province covering all districts of the province.</li> <li>• This two week <b>total 41,145 (Total 3,19,736 HHs)</b> Households are counselled by SAAHARA front line worker and <b>119 Health Facilities</b> counselling done by SAAHARA technical officers for support to reviving the services, sent push message to HHs <b>(1,43,136 send push message)</b>, expert interview conducted and send message thorough social media about COVID-19 and Nutrition promotion.</li> <li>• UNICEF, MoFAGA-MSNP and SAAHARA team regularly following up for nutrition program implementation. <b>(SP II front line worker facilitated to New 8 SAM case to Admit in OTC and NRH and Phone follow up 32 case)</b></li> <li>• Preposition of nutrition commodities for monsoon preparedness are in place in all district warehouses.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect, compile and disseminate the coverage report of national Vitamin A campaign in the next cluster meeting</li> <li>• Follow up the nutrition commodities available at Provincial health logistic management center and districts health warehouse available for emergency response.</li> <li>• Readiness to address nutrition issues in Monsoon emergencies considering COVID-19 context.</li> <li>• Follow up to endorse nutrition in emergency response plans (COVID-19 and Monsoon) for the province and TOR of H&amp;N cluster.</li> <li>• Coordinating with local government and health offices to continue nutrition service monitoring.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Working Group (TWG)</b>	
<p><b>Information Management (IM) TWG:</b>  Ms. Sangeeta Paudel, Chair of IM TWG explained the following points in nutrition cluster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IM Technical Working Group meeting conducted in 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020</li> <li>• Exploring opportunities for the integration of nutrition indicators in MoHP information system</li> <li>• Bulletin is shared for the inputs and circulation.</li> <li>• Reviewing documents to make system for the monsoon information system and response updates</li> <li>• Exploring for the integration of the nutrition indicators in MoHP M&amp;E system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare information management system for monsoon response</li> <li>• Prepare mid-year report and information to be provided to Global Nutrition Cluster for mid-year reporting</li> <li>• <b>Coordinate M&amp;E section of MoHP jointly with assessment TWG to harmonize three monitoring tools (NIS, health cluster tools and RH sub-cluster tools)</b></li> <li>•</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fourth round of the information collection is completed. Monthly bulletin is developed.</li> <li>• Reviewing HMIS data and will update in the NIS system accordingly</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Micro-nutrient (MN) TWG:</b>  <b>Mr. Naveen Paudel, the Chair of MN TWG briefed the following points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 22 June 2020, Global Alliance for Vitamin 'A' (GAVA) released its global guidance on "ADMINISTRATION OF VITAMIN A SUPPLEMENTATION FOR PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19".</li> <li>• Aligning with GAVA guidance and following with the MoHP Nepal's interim guidance on VAC and Albendazole distribution, Semester 1<sup>st</sup> round of VAC and Albendazole distribution successfully organized in all 753 municipalities of Nepal on 6-7 July 2020 with maximum participation of children aged 6-59 months.</li> <li>• The final VAC and Albendazole tablet coverage among children aged 6-59 months yet to receive through DHIS/ HMIS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with HMIS to collect and compile the coverage of National Vitamin A campaign held on 22 and 23 Ashadh 2077 (6 and 7 July 2020).</li> <li>• Coordinate to manage 100,000 IU Vitamin 'A' capsules to FCHVs for dosing children aged 6-11 months from next round.</li> <li>• Since MoHP procuring MNP as required for programme district, coordinate to supply manage multiple micronutrient powder (MNPs) through health facilities as earliest as possible once Nepal receives new MNP</li> </ul>
<p><b>IYCF TWG:</b>  On behalf of IYCF TWG, Ms Bhim Kumari Pun, Chair of IYCF TWG brief as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinating with BCC TWG to develop standard materials on breastfeeding and infant and young children feeding as planned by BCC TWG</li> <li>• Ensure protection, promotion and support IYCF practices in affected population from monsoon floods and landslides.</li> <li>• Continue, monitoring compliance of BMS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to complete the nutrition apps in the MoHP which was agreed in the previous nutrition cluster meeting</li> <li>• Initiate to collect and prepare a report of using BMS in different parts of the country Coordinate with BCC TWG to develop standard materials on breastfeeding and infant and young children feeding as planned by BCC TWG.</li> </ul>
<p><b>IMAM TWG</b>  <b>On behalf of IMAM TWG, Mr Sujay Nepali Bhattacharya, Chair of IMAM TWG briefed the following as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim SOP for Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) targeting children 6-23 months and PLW (Pregnant and Lactating Women) was submitted to the NNC on 12 June 2020, and Family / Mother MUAC Operational Guidance Note on 23 June 2020 for endorsement.</li> <li>• 'ToR/Protocol for assessment of Nutrition Rehabilitation Homes (NRHs)' have been finalized however; did not get support from any agencies to conduct the assessment.</li> <li>• BCC TWG is waiting for endorsement of Family / Mother MUAC Operational Guidance Note to start development of video for family / mother MUAC and take away cards / message for mothers/caretakers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up with FWD for processing the guidance note of Family MUAC approach and SOP for BSFP.</li> <li>• Develop exit strategy for BSFP as the program will go maximum for 2 or 3 months only.</li> <li>• Work together with BCC TWG to develop a short video to train mothers for MUAC assessment, referral the SAM child to the OTC and follow up actions</li> <li>• Coordinate for the assessment of the current situation of NRH</li> </ul>
<p><b>BCC TWG:</b>  <b>On behalf of BCC TWG Sabina Hora, chair of BCC briefed as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of the program Bhanchhin Aama and Hello Bhanchhin Aama</li> <li>• Airing of Vitamin "A" messages through 136 radio stations across the country through 136 FM stations, Total 4300 minutes of radio airing for 4 days.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation for message dissemination for upcoming breastfeeding week.</li> <li>• Develop Family MUAC video to train Mothers for the assessment of their children's nutrition status.</li> <li>• Facilitate to all agencies to develop and use the MoHP brands of IEC/BCC materials and ensure that those all</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airing of Vitamin "A" messages from 9 national television channels reaching out television watching populations.</li> <li>• Dissemination of the vitamin A campaign messages through social media.</li> <li>• Discussion programme on "Child nutrition" produced and disseminated through Radio chautari Programme. The programme has listenership of more than 1 million. The programme was also broadcasted through Facebook live.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• materials are cleared by DoHS with the technical assistance of NHEICC.</li> </ul>
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**Remarks from Ms. Laxmi Ghimire, Under Secretary, the National Planning Commission:**

- She was very happy to be part of nutrition cluster meeting regularly.
- It is very good progress that national Vitamin A campaign started nationwide on 22 and 23 Ashadh 2077 (6-7 July 2020) and was very happy to know that it completed successfully with high positive vibes.
- There was very good progress in terms of information dissemination to pregnant and lactating women as well as children through virtual mode. But the effectiveness of the virtually disseminated information should be assessed also.
- She also highlighted that NPC is always ready to support and the nutrition programme need to be included in the budget policy and programmes of the provincial as well as local governments.

**Remarks from Dr. Bhim Singh Tinkari, Director of Family Welfare Division**

- Thanking to all the Nutrition cluster lead, co-lead, provincial team for making vitamin-A campaign successful.
- In addition, he also requested to make this nutrition cluster meeting to go ahead on biweekly basis and make this more successful.

**Remarks from Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Director General (DG) of Department of Health Services (DoHS):**

- Thanked to the nutrition cluster lead, co-lead, provincial directorates and representatives, all nutrition cluster members and all participants of the meeting for doing such a wonderful job in this situation.
- Felt good to hear that nutrition cluster performed very well and also good to hear about the successful of National Vitamin A Campaign despite of the threat of the pandemic ongoing.
- Further, he has requested to share the outcomes of the meeting and presentations and once again thanked to all.
- He also appreciated to all for their hard work at all levels to address nutrition issues on COVID-19 and non COVID-19 Context
- He also promised to participate in every nutrition cluster meeting and be a part of it.
- In addition, in this meeting Mr. Anirudra Sharma cluster co-lead informed Director General regarding the meeting planned by National Planning Commission (NPC) for supplementary feeding with donors and external partners. For this Anirudra Sharma has requested director to be a part of it and support in this action.

**Closing of the meeting and next nutrition cluster meeting**

Mr. Anirudra Sharma, the nutrition cluster co-lead and the meeting facilitator thanked to the DG of DoHS Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Provincial Health Directors and provincial health team members and Under Secretary of NPC, EDP chiefs and representatives and all participants of the meeting for their valuable presentations, participation and suggestions.

Mr. Anirudra Sharma appreciated the roles performed by Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, the chair of the meeting and Nutrition cluster lead for his excellent leadership and coordination for the management of nutrition in emergencies and requested him to close the meeting with his closing remarks. During closing remarks, Mr. **Parajuli**, highlighted the following points:

- The cluster meeting needs to be considered as a forum to learn the lesson and move forward to address the issues of nutrition of the people in COVID-19 context. This is an opportunity to learn best experiences, strategies, mobilization of resources to make nutrition specific interventions more effective.
- He thanked to all participants attending in the cluster meeting, Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, the Director General of DoHS and Dr. Bhim Singh Tinkari, the Director of FWD for his valuable participation, guidance and leadership provided for the meeting, Director of the NPC Ms. Laxmi Ghimire, Provincial health Directors and provincial health team, Development partners including UN agencies, bi-lateral agencies, I/NGOs, NRH managers and representatives and all nutrition cluster members of Federal as well as provincial levels. different programmes as well as other invitees. He also announced that the next cluster meeting will be held on **Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> Shrawan 2077 (31<sup>st</sup> July 2020) from 11:00 to 13:00 hrs. via zoom link (Bi-weekly)** and closed the meeting.

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

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

1. Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Director General of DoHS/MoHP
2. Dr. Bhim Singh Tinkari, Director, family Welfare Division of DoHS/MoHP
3. Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DOHS/MoHP –Nutrition cluster lead
4. Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF – Nutrition cluster co-lead
5. Dr. Binod Bindu Sharma, Provincial Health Directorate, Gandaki Province
6. Mr. Roshan Lal Chaudhary, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 5
7. Mr. Ramesh Adhikari, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 3
8. Mr. Harish Chand Shah, Provincial Health directorate, Province 2
9. Dr. Krishna Bista, Chairperson, Nepal Pediatrics Society
10. Ms. Laxmi Ghimire, programme Director, National Planning Commission
11. Dr. Bhushan Mishra from PHD, Sudurpaschim Province
12. Mr. Shambhu Kafle, PHA, PHD Bagamati province
13. Dr. Shailesh Thakur, Narayani Provincial Hospital, Birgunj
14. Mr. Minraj Joshi, health Assistant, Sudur Paschim Province
15. Ms. Kalpana Pandey, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
16. Ms. Meena Mote, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
17. Mr. Harihar Prasad Sharma, FWD/DOHS/MoHP
18. Mr. Kunja Joshi, NHEICC
19. Mr. Dharmendra Neupane, Pharmacy Officer, PHD, Karnali province
20. Mr. Debendra Adhikari, Nutrition Specialist, USAID
21. Ms. Karan Courtney Haag, Chief Nutrition Programme, UNICEF
22. Ms. Dale Davis, Country Representative, HKI
23. Ms. Pooja Pandey Rana, Deputy Chief of the Party, Suahaara II/USAID
24. Ms. Naomi Saville, Nutritionist, consultant to DFID and University College London nutrition researcher
25. Ms. Bhim Kumari Pun, Senior Manager, Suahaara II
26. Mr. Santosh Acharya, Programme Officer, UN Women
27. Mr. Jeevan Ghimire, Health policy Officer, DFID
28. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Bhujel, Nutrition officer, UNICEF
29. Mr. Sanjay Rijal, M and E officer, UNICEF
30. Ms. Anju Adhikari, Nutrition officer, UNICEF/FWD
31. Mr. Indra Bhujel, Governance Expert, UNICEF
32. Ms. Anju Acharya, MSNP expert, UNICEF
33. Ms. Astha Thapa, PHD, Province number 1
34. Ms. Sabina Hora, Nutrition and IEC Experts/HKI
35. Mr. Sujay Nepali Bhattacharya, Head of Health and Nutrition department, ACF
36. Ms. Manisha Katwal, Senior Program Officer, Health and Nutrition, ACF
37. Ms. Pabitra Sapkota MSNP Coordinator, Karnali Province
38. Mr. Deepak Thapa, NTAG
39. Ms. Preeti Subba, NTAG
40. Mr. Sandesh Adhikari, NTAG
41. Mr. Binod Kumar Aryal, Senior programme Manager, GHAN
42. Ms. Abhilasha Gurung, World Vision International
43. Ms. Sarita Yadav, NRH Birgunj
44. Ms. Rashmi Jha, NRH Rajbiraj
45. Mr. Nishant Acharya, Baglung NRH
46. Mr. Ngima T. Sherpa, Chairperson, HHESS
47. Ms. Aarju Hamal, Nutrition Officer, HHESS
48. Dr. Maureen Dariang, Lead Advisor, NHSSP
49. Ms. Nisha Singh, Knowledge Management Officer, Aasman Nepal
50. Mr. Phulgendra Prasad Singh, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
51. Ms. Sumi Maskey, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
52. Mr. Prakash Joshi, Nutrition Officer UNICEF



53. Ms. Bindu Panthi, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
54. Mr. Sudip Chiluwal, Program Coordinator, NEPHEG
55. Mr. Nanda Adhikari, Coordinators, SDPC
56. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP, Karnali Province
57. Mr. Raj Nandan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, SUSAHARA II /USAID
58. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal, Care Nepal
59. Mr. Lokendra Thapa, SUSAHARA II /USAID
60. Mr. Yam GC, SUSAHARA II /USAID
61. Mr. Sunil Khatiwada, SUSAHARA II /USAID
62. Ms. Femila Sapkota, Nutrition Manager, SUSAHARA II /USAID
63. Mr. Krishna Prasad Lamsal, WFP/FWD
64. Mr. Gyanendra Dawadi, MSNP coordinator
65. Mr. Anil Neupane, MSNP Coordinator
66. Mr. Rajendra Adhikari, Suaahara II/USAID, Surkhet
67. Mr. Bharat Sarma - Program Coordinator/Provincial Focal person Province-1, Suaahara II/USAID
68. Ms. Anita Thapa, Program Coordinator, Suaahara II/USAID
69. Ms. Sarita Dahal, UNFPA, Okhaldhunga
70. Mr. Bhumishwar Sharma-MSNP Coordinator, MoFAGA
71. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal-program coordinator/provincial focal person, province-3, Suaahara II/USAID
72. Mr. Raj Kumar Mahato, World Health Organization, Provincial Health Officer, Bagamati Province
73. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator- Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
74. Mr. Manis Thakur, MSNP Coordinator, Saptari
75. Mr. Hemanta Jha, MSNP Coordinator (Province #2)
76. Ms. Ritika Dahal, MSNP Coordinator (Bagmati Province)
77. Mr. Bhumi Sharma, MSNP Coordinator (Gandaki Province and Province #5)
78. Mr. Man Bahadur Kunwar, MSNP Coordinator (Sudur Pashchim Province)
79. Mr. Bhola Gautam, Reporting and Documentation Officer, MoFAGA
80. Mr. Lokendra Thapa SUSAHARA II/USAID Program Coordinator, Sudurpaschim Province
81. Ms. Puja Chand Dadeldhura NRH, Program Manager.
82. Ms. Prabha Singh, Surkhet NRH
83. Ms. Indra Bhatta, Kanchanpur NRH
84. Ms. Sunita Rimal, NYF, Kathmandu
85. Mr. Binod Kumar Aryal, GHAN
86. Ms. Sanjeev Lama Ghishing, DC, Rautahat/Sarlahi, MSNP, MoFAGA
87. Ms. Chhamkala Kafle program manager (Bharatpur NRH)
88. Ms. Kusum K. C. NRH coordinator from Dailekh
89. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Welthungerhilfe
90. Ms. Gita Bista, NRH Kailali
91. Ms. Nisha Sharma, HKI
92. Mr. Kuber Prasad Adhikari, Health Nutrition and WASH lead, WVI
93. Ms. Babita Adhikari, HKI, ARCH

**Annex 2: Major Updates of National Nutrition Cluster (as of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020): COVID-19 Situation Brief (as of 02 July 2020):**

Indicators	Global Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic		Global Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic	
	02 July 2020	16 July 2020	02 July 2020	02 July 2020
Number COVID-19 positive cases	10,857,346	13,338,364	14,511	17,344
Number of deaths	520,127	579,319	31	39 (0.2%)
Number of Cured	6,076,512	8,197,103	5,320	11,249 (64.9%)
Number of PCR tested			237,764	303,810
Number of RDT tested			305,629	312,402
Number people in quarantine camps			38,109	23,500
Number COVID-19 cases in the isolation			9,168	6,056 (34.9%)
Number of districts with COVID cases			77	72

**Major Progress done by Nutrition cluster:**

- Standard and guidelines:** Nutrition cluster prepared and endorsed the following guidelines:
  - Prepared Interim Guidance note on Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF-E) and Nutrition Information Management system in COVID-19 context
  - Endorsed IYCF-E joint statement between MoHP and nutrition cluster partners
  - Endorsed Special Operating Procedures for Blanket Supplementary Feeding programme
  - Endorsed interim guidance note for Vitamin A supplementation and approved by MoHP.
  - Finalized concept note for “Standardised Monitoring Assessment Relief and Transition - SMART nutrition survey and ready to implement it
  - Endorsed operational guideline and assessment protocol of NRH
  - Endorsed Family MUAC approach considering COVID-19 context
  - Developed BCC messages on nutrition, messages and PSA for Vitamin A supplementation campaign
- Coordination arrangement:**
  - Nutrition cluster has been very active at Federal level and it has 7 Technical Working Group such as; IMAM, IYCF, Micro-nutrient, BCC, Information Management, Nutrition Assessment and Contingency Planning
  - Health and Nutrition cluster has been established in all 7 provinces and working actively to address the nutrition issues in COVID-19 context.
- Information management:**
  - Nutrition service monitoring has been ongoing bi-weekly basis by the nutrition cluster members, and it is planned to produce an information bulleting of the monitoring outcomes soon.
  - Nutrition cluster has been collecting the information on programme performance on weekly basis from all provinces.
- Nutrition Interventions:**
  - Implemented national Vitamin A campaign successfully implemented on 22 and 23 Ashadh 2077 (6-7 July 2020) targeting to 2.7 million 6-59-month children for Vitamin A supplementation and 2.3 million 12-59 months children for Deworming.

Similarly, after the lockdown, following progress has been made by nutrition cluster nationwide:

SN	Indicators	Total		Total so far
		Until last week	This week	

<b>Treatment of Severe acute malnutrition</b>				
1.	Number of Functioning NRH	16	16	16
2.	Number of Functioning OTCs	591	591	1,171
3.	Treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition in last 7 months from NRH and OTCs	2,745	84	2,829
4.	Number of caregivers of SAM children followed up via telephone or other means of follow ups	317	28	345
<b>Prevention of acute malnutrition</b>				
5.	Number of 6-23 months children received Supercereal plus in five Karnali districts	65,533	20,830	86,363
6.	Number of PLWs received Supercereal plus in five Karnali districts	38,879	11,180	50,059
7.	Golden1000Days HHS receiving relief package from local government	74,748	9,730	84,478
<b>Micro-nutrient interventions</b>				
8.	Coverage of Vitamin A supplementation in the areas of measles outbreak	0	0	15,359
9.	Coverage of Deworming in the areas of measles outbreak with Vitamin A supplementation	0	0	28,929
<b>Behaviour change communication on nutrition</b>				
10.	HHS reached with radio messages on nutrition	876,670	154,002	1,030,672
11.	HH reached with SMS with IYCF messages	2,878,977	17,224	2,896,201
12.	Number of Pregnant & lactating women reach SMS with IYCF messages	551,852	119,014	671,866
13.	Number of HHS reached counselled with telephone	1,484,992	92,705	1,577,697
14.	Number of PLWs counselled via telephone	432,899	49,750	482,649
15.	Number of FM radio disseminated nutrition messages	207	207	207

#### **Status of nutrition supplies:**

- UNICEF procured 2,000 cartons RUTF (but transported 3,000 cartons), 300 cartons of F100 and 250 cartons of F75, and transported from central medical stores Pathalaya to 7 provincial health logistic management centres (PHLMC) with UNICEF's support as well as to different programme districts from PHLMCs.
- Managed Gloves, sanitizers and handwashing station during national Vitamin A campaign everywhere with the support of MoHP (one lakh allocated for each palika for nutrition friendly health facilities nationwide), Suahaara, UNICEF (unspent funds for CNSI training)

#### **Nutrition in emergency preparedness:**

- National Nutrition cluster finalized COVID-19 response plan and Monsoon response preparedness plan and endorsed from nutrition cluster
- All 7 provinces have prepared nutrition in emergency response preparedness plan for Monsoon emergency response as well as COVID-19 response
- All nutrition supplies such as; Vitamin A capsules, Albendazole tablets, RUTF, F100, F75 and ReSoMal are already transported from Pathalaya Medical Store to PHLMC of all 7 provinces.
- Available of Supercereal for the blanket supplementary feeding programme targeting to 6-23 months children, pregnant and lactating women in five Karnali districts and Solukhumbu district

#### **Challenges**

- Screening children continues to be a challenge in the COVID-19 context making it difficult to identify SAM children for treatment.
- Big gaps for blanket supplementary feeding programme
- Supply gap of Therapeutic food for 8,000 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (8,000 cartons RUTF)