1st Formal Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Health Cluster Coordination Meeting

9 April 2020

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Cluster Co-Lead

Ongoing Support from partners for COVID-19 Response

World Bank

- Currently negotiated a project " Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option+ Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility", approved by the WB Board in March 2020.

- The project could be effective to draw down funds within three months (depends on Govt procedures) upon declaration of public health emergency.

ADB

- Government of Nepal has requested ADB for $50 million budget support, to help to the public health emergencies as well as mitigate the adverse economic impacts caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic by financing the government's response measures.

- ADB has mobilized $300,000 grant support to provide PPE kits, PCR kits and or other supplies to the government's urgent request for commodities, procurement of which will be done by UNICEF.

DFID-1

- DFID is providing up to £802k to WHO Nepal to support technical expertise and response activities.

- DFID's health technical assistance team (NHSSP) based at the MoHP is supporting MoHPs response to Covid-19 and strategies to maintain essential services. Also providing surge support on procurement, information management, reporting etc..

- MoHP can access support for focused activities through NHSSPs technical assistance response fund (TARF). This requires a short concept note and budget- which NHSSP can help prepare but a formal MoHP request it still required.

- DFID is supporting UNFPA for rapid assessment/situation analysis to identify barriers in FP & SRH services; and capacity building (MISP, training materials covid-19, coaching) of HWs for FP/SRH services.

- The Rural Water and Sanitation programme (Gurkha Welfare Scheme) has been flexed with initial £200k for work on WASH in health facilities (dependent on gaining permissions to travel/work during the lockdown period)

DFID-2

- Funding Nepal-specific epidemiological modelling

- UK seconded a microbiologist to WHO (via GOARN) to support laboratory strengthening

- Biosafety cabinets for the UK Fleming Fund (AMR) programme are being flexed to support Covid testing in Provincial Public Health Lab (PPHL) Lumbini, BPKIHS Dharan and National Avian Disease Investigation Lab (Veterinary Lab) Chitwan.

- UK has provided contributions to UN, WHO and UNICEF appeals also to IFRC. Not yet clear how much will be allocated by them to Nepal.

- Decant structures to support DFID funded hospital retrofitting in Pokhara Academy of Sciences and Bhaktapur being converted into Covid treatment facilities

UNITED STATES

- CDC is providing 1 test kit, which can test for 1000 cases, to NPHL.

- USAID releasing emergency funds - $700K to WHO for preparedness and response & $1.1m to Suaahara for risk communication and community engagement.

- USAID and WHO jointly provided 1000 PPEs from our stockpiles, plus additional supplies.

- US Military, donated PPEs and supplies to Nepali military for evacuation.

- $150,000 to ensure continuity of services (ARVs) for PLHIV.

- Through GHSC-PSM, providing TA in estimation of required quantities (Quantification), Logistics support and planning. Working on adapting eLMIS to include COVID-19 commodities inventory management.

GIZ

To date, GIZ has received additional Euro 1 M from the German Government (through BMZ) for the combat of COVID-19. (additional funds are expected) This amount is used in the following areas (5 out of the 8 pillars):

1. Surveillance, Rapid Response Teams, and Case Investigation (in collaboration with WHO):

- Enhance real -time Surveillance through EWARS for Covid-19:
    - New daily reporting module developed and is already live
    - Sentinel sites have started sending data.
    - Reporting rate 44% from 118 sentinel sites (as per 07.04.2020)
- Enhance case Investigation and Contact Tracing for Covid-19: This includes enabling effective case investigation and contact tracing, harmonized with the "call center" that has been established by EDCD and the SMS/Mobile App based reporting.
    - Customized WHO standard tool using go.data software platform.
    - This system is also live
    - Training provided to task team and data is being entered
- Prepare real-time dashboard and data analysis features:
    - Dashboard is ready. Waiting for EDCD's approval to make it live
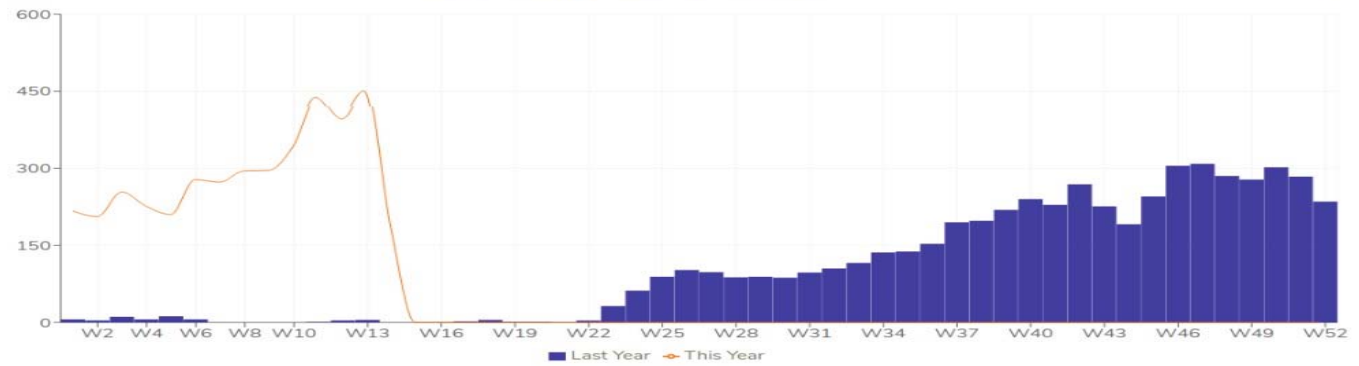   - Daily graphs embedded within email will also be sent to policy makers

GIZ

GIZ

2.   Laboratories

- Provide initially 3,000 PCR-RT tests with necessary consumables (order of 20,000 PCR-RT tests in total has been placed with manufacturer; delivery delayed by 2 weeks due to transport problems)
- Offer flying in trainers to strengthen the lab facilities if this is feasible

3. Infection Prevention and Control

- In February 2020, GIZ has assisted the MoHP to develop waste management plan and guidelines (approved) plus provided equipment to ensure proper management of infectious waste from arriving planes and in quarantines stations.
- Rapid Assessment Tool developed on IPC, HCWM and WASH in hospitals designated for COVID-19 case management in coordination with WHO, UNICEF and Supporting in 13 hospital's assessment.
- Support 13 plus (including 7 provincial) hospitals, hubs and quarantine stations with appropriate healthcare waste management – equipment, Healthcare waste treatment center, training, sustainable HCWM system establishment.- HCWM measures established in APF hospital, KTM
- Improve WASH in hub hospitals (together with WHO and UNICEF)
- Provide heavy load washing machines to hub hospitals (estimated for 12 hospitals)

GIZ

4. Case Management

- Provide PPEs, masks and other medical supplies: 1,450 PPE procured and handed over to MoHP on 25.3.2020
- Provided further supplies and equipment (see also MOHP request matrix and GIZ's/GDC's commitments)
- In coordination with other partners, roll out a practice-oriented training program (online training/ orientation for in and outside valley) for health staff in ICU and hubs - In coordination with NHTC, training of newly recruited 28 medical officers, 4 nursing officers and 41 staff nurses on IPC and critical care (8th to 10th April, 2020)

5. Coordination, Planning, and Monitoring

- Support MoHP in these functions and provide remote support to province and selected municipality (NPJ, Dhangadhi, Godawari)
- Develop a digital tool to monitor availability and daily occupancy rate of ICU beds as well as availability of staff and equipment (including functionality) to monitor the functionality of the facilities – ideally on a daily basis. This could be done using EWARS+
- Supporting MD/DoHS in developing monitoring matrix of commodities supported by EDPs and doing regular update

UNICEF

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (1)

- Adaptation/development of global COVID-19 messages and communication products (3 video, animation, flyers, 14 audio- Nepali, Newari, Awadhi, Doteli, Tamang, Maithali and Bhojpuri Languages)

- Coordinated and disseminated COVID-19 prevention and protection messages through more than 600 radio stations, 22 television channels, print media, social media, online platforms and telecommunication partners. Expected to reach more than 15 million people across country

- Rumours tracking through regular media engagement, social media, radio and television. Misinformation and rumors addressed through social media, radio, 7 television channels and 5 online news portal

- Community feedback tools developed. Telephone survey conducted with 1,110 respondents. Preliminary findings showed 98% of the respondents are aware of the COVID-19. Radio and television are the main source of information for the community. Findings will be shared on April 10, 2020

UNICEF

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (2)

- Printed 500,000 flyers and 350 standees/flex posters; handed over to Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) and National Health Information and Communication Center

- Facilitated the dissemination of messages through private sectors like NCELL and UNILEVER on handwashing and COVID-19 prevention and protection

- Orientation and mobilization of around 45 inter-faith leaders on COVID-19 prevention through religious platforms.

- Support to Ministry of Health and Population on conducting virtual press brief

- Media Engagement: interaction with 25 editors and 46 reporters from mainstream media in collaboration with MOICT.

- Coordination with the partners for disseminating standard messages and build synergy on RCCE interventions.

UNICEF

Health

- Thirty IR hand thermometer handed over to EDCD
- Five hundred blankets and 100 hygiene kit with bucket and mug support to Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital following the initial assessment
- Sixty thousand surgical masks and 10,000 gloves in Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces
- Tents installed in Janakpur Provincial hospital, Narayani hospital and Gajendra Narayen Sing hospital for Fever Clinic

UNFPA

- UNFPA is providing MoHP with 1200 PPE kits along with hygiene sanitation supplies (surgical masks 4000, disposable gloves 6000, sanitizers 1000)

- Co-leading the RH sub-cluster and Protection Cluster coordination.

- Adaptation, localization and dissemination of messages/materials on COVID19, through social media, radio and TV PSAs targeting pregnant women and women of reproductive age, also rumor tracking and community engagement.

- Prepositioning of Emergency Reproductive Health (ERH) Kits (1-10) and Dignity and Kishori Kits in 3 locations in Kathmandu and 3 provinces (2,5,7).

WHO Country Office for Nepal

- Technical assistance: in developing SOPs, entry screening, IPC, treatment protocols, contact tracing, risk communication and IEC materials (basically all areas of the preparedness and response). Conference support for various meetings and training.

- Logistics: WHO and USAID jointly provided 1000 PPEs from our stockpiles, plus additional supplies. WHO Provided 146 full set of PPEs. Laboratory - sample shipment and quality assurance through WHO CCs. Primers and Probes for COVID-19 lab test. Logistics support for surveillance team mobilize for all the provinces and ground crossings.

- Strengthened POE - training/orientation and equipments - PPEs, hospital gown, reflector jackets for HWs at POEs.

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Risk Communication

- Technical assistance to National Health Education Information Communication Center (NHEICC) for validation and dissemination of messages by Unicef & WHO.
  - Support in translation of WHO Health messages to Nepali language
  - Sharing of the updated GIFs/ infographics from WHO website
- Working in close coordination with Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) stakeholders and liasoning to expand the network
- Validation and dissemination of the radio PSA/ Scripts/ Animations/ Video/ Jingles
- Support in sharing of the facts to the rumours tracked in the **Rumour and Fact Sheet** disseminated weekly in joint collaboration by RCO, UNICEF and WHO
- Support to EDCD with trained human resources for functioning of the call center to provide information on COVID-19 and identification suspected cases
- Technical assistance provided by WHO to Health Emergency Operation Center to develop situation report

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Clinical Management

- Clinical guidance for management of COVID-19 patients in health care settings endorsed by Ministry of Health and Population

- Rationale use of Personal Protective Equipment endorsed by Ministry of Health and Population

Clinical Management Facility Readiness:

- MoHP requested Curative Service Division and provincial government to undertake the rapid assessment of designated hospitals for clinical management of COVID-19 patients with support from WHO

- Draft tool under review

IPC & Facility Preparedness

Rapid Assessment Tool KIT

- Assessment Tool Kit for IPC, WASH, Health Care Wash Management finalized in coordination with Curative Service Division, Nursing and Social Security Division, Management Division WHO, GIZ and UNICEF

- Assessment to be initiated by the end of this week

- Draft document sent to Incident Command for final endorsement from DoHS

- Guidelines on IPC in health care settings endorsed by Ministry of Health and Population

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Laboratory Capacity

- Quality assurance of the test performed by NPHL supported twice in WHO CC
- Support for sample shipment through courier agency put in place by NPHL. An agreement has been signed. (it is not functional due to the national lockdown)
- COVID-19 specific laboratory sample collection form developed
- WHO supported external expert supported to NPHL to develop scaled up strategy for diagnostic testing for COVID-19
- A total of ten (10) laboratories/institutions covering all seven provinces is currently testing for COVID-19
- WHO provided 1500 additional test reagents to NPHL on 7 April 2020

Field Operations

- Field Medical Officers at sub-national level to support COVID-19 response
  - Surkhet and Pokhara (Karnali and Gandaki) - existing
  - Dhangadi and Janakpur (Sudur Paschim and Province 2) - deployed on 8 April
  - Planned to deploy soon 3 more FMOs (for Province 1, 3, and 5)
  - Note: several FMOs are also supporting at central level such as in HEOC, EDCD, NPHL, etc
- Information Management Assistants at sub-national level to support COVID-19 response
  - Sudur Paschim and Gandaki (existing)
  - For remaining Provinces, recruitment completed – planning to send soon

Incident Commander- Yadav P Koirala Secretary, MoHP

Operation Officer-

-Dr. Gunaraj Lohani, Nepal Army, WHO, Dr. Suresh Tiwari, Dr. Prabhat Adhikari

Secretariat- Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC)

Planning and Budgeting Officer- Dr. Basudev Pandey, Dr. Yadu Chandra Ghimire Lilaraj Paudel Dr. Guna Nidhi Sharma, Puspa Khanal

Logistic management Officer:- Bhogendra R Dotel, Chudamani Bhandari, Dr. Phanindra Psd Baral, Dr. Jhalak Gautam

Admin/Finance Officer- Raghu Ram Bista, Muktinath Neupane, Keshab Prasad Prasai

Communication and Coordination Officer-Dr. Pradeep Gyanwali, Dr. Bikash Devkota (NEOC), Sunil Sharma, Kedar Parajuli , Dr. Samir Adhikari (vice-spokesperson) ,Durga Khadka Mishra

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Provide updates to the context, gaps, and your programming/commodity donations to		kathmanduhfp@usaid.gov

Thank you