

National Nutrition Cluster Meeting
Briefing from Micronutrient TWG

4 December 2020

Outline for the briefing of Nutrition Cluster Micronutrient TWG:

A. Major highlights (please be strict in maximum five bullets):

On date 1st December 2020, Nutrition Cluster- Micronutrient Technical Working Group meeting organized where following issues were discussed and following consensus made to share with the Nutrition Cluster.

- (1) Reviewed the key challenges and successes of Integrated VAC, Albendazole and MNP distribution campaign on 26-27 November 2020 and developed key suggestion to take corrective action for the the next round of VAC distribution on April 19-20, 2021.
- (2) With reference to VAC distribution campaign on November 2020 round, reviewed what working well and what is the challenges that the community-based infant and young child feeding counselling and diet quality improvement through home fortification programme is facing and developed key suggestion to take corrective action for the programme
- (3) Collected update on the progress made in drafting interim guideline on Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFAS) in the context of COVID 19 from the group member assigned for the task.
- (4) Discussed on the possibility to organize country consultative meeting on strengthening efforts to achieve optimal Iodine Nutrition in South Asia in between January – March 2021

B. Progress against agreed action points of previous meeting

Action Points	Discussion/ Suggestion/ Achievements	Remarks
Vitamin 'A' distribution Campaign: Initiate Preparation for next round of Vitamin 'A' distribution on April 2021 right from now.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start country level discussion to procure 100,000 IU Vitamin 'A' Capsule with blue color. • Clarify the Vitamin 'A' dosing protocol on parents/caretaker approach since unclarity over this approach lead to distribute Vitamin 'A' capsule by FCHVs. • Intensify the message around Vitamin 'A' distribution since many places, the revised guideline was not understood by Health Workers and FCHVs leading to follow previous protocol. 	<p>In several Vitamin 'A' distribution centers, FCHVs were observed replaced with new one.</p> <p>May require, FCHV training to the new FCHVs.</p>

<p>IYCF/MNP: Strengthen IYCF counselling through re-activating health sector's mother group meeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely delivery of MNP powder to FCHVs remained crucial. FCHVs were distributing MNPs with close to expiry date, 7 December 2020. • Attempt were made by FCHVs to counsel caretakers/ mothers but in most cases, the caretakers were other than mother, increasing the risk of poor follow up of IYCF practices including fortification of child's diet with MNP. • FCHVs facing difficulty to provide IYCF counselling in the mid of VAC distribution, so need to provide other platform for counselling purpose than only relying on biannual Vitamin 'A' distribution. 	<p>Focus on pre-planning for MNP distribution and IYCF counselling together with biannual Vitamin 'A' distribution.</p>
<p>Interim Guideline on Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A technical team in SUAAHRA already drafted interim guideline on Weekly Iron folic acid supplementation in the context of school closer and the guideline is under discussion for finalization from their side. • However, the team felt confused if they need to still consider the school closer situation or should think about the situation where Government of Nepal is planning to open schools depending upon the local situation. • The NC- MN TWG advised to go with the school closer situation at this moment considering if school opens, the WIFAS guideline, 2016 remains applicable. • The NC- MN TWG team member assigned to draft the interim guideline will share the first draft to NC-MN TWG in next meeting. • Most probably, first draft of interim guideline can be shared with the Nutrition Cluster COB by next cluster meeting. 	<p>Seeking advice from Nutrition Cluster if any.</p>

<p>Organizing country consultative meeting on strengthening efforts to achieve optimal Iodine Nutrition in South Asia in between January – March 2021</p>	<p>In year 2019, UNICEF ROSA and Iodine Global Network (IGN) jointly developed two major documents for the South Asia.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Landscape review of the status of policy and programme action on USI in the region 2. Technical review of regional trade standards pertaining to processed foods (in which iodized salt is used) and iodized salt <p>In addition, a paper on “The evolution, progress and future direction of Nepal’s universal salt iodization programme’ published in MCN journal”.</p> <p>The aim of these documents is to develop country specific action plan on iodine deficiency disorder (IDD) prevention and control using the evidences generated from these documents.</p> <p>UNICEF ROSA and IGN seeks to organize country consultative meeting within the first quarter of 2021 and requesting advice from Nutrition Cluster on the following three points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential dates for convening the consultative meeting on Iodine Nutrition and USI in Jan/Feb 2021. • Format of meetings (Virtual versus face to face in country interactive meeting) • Support needs. <p>The NC- MN TWG suggested on the possibility of organizing such consultative meeting, provided Government is prepared to organize such consultative meeting in first quarter of 2021. The team members suggested both possibilities, in country face to face consultation meeting and consultative meeting with Zoom interaction.</p>	<p>Seeking advice from Nutrition Cluster on following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential dates for convening the consultative meeting on Iodine Nutrition and USI in Jan/Feb 2021. • Format of meetings (Virtual versus face to face in country interactive meeting) • Support needs.
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