

**National Nutrition Cluster Meeting,
Updates from Micronutrient Technical Working Group in National Nutrition
Cluster Meeting
(25 June 2021)**

A. Major highlights (Maximum three short bullets):

1. Discussed about the upcoming distribution of Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFAS) to adolescent girls under the situation of schools closer.
2. Discussed about the Zero dosing of Vitamin 'A' Capsule in the upcoming Vitamin 'A' distribution round [Zero-dose children are defined as those who did not receive 1 dose of Vitamin A as tracer throughout the year.]
3. Discussed about the barriers on the MNP/IYCF Coverage

B: Status of agreed action points of previous meeting

S. No	Action Points	Progress
1.	Distributed Adolescent Nutrition Guideline, 2019 to all municipalities (electronic / hard copy version). MoHP Nepal circular dated BS 2077/09/29 still applicable for the next round of Vitamin 'A' distribution. However, there is need to send circular to all local Government to continue WIFAS distribution to adolescent girls, who are not school now due to closer of schools, through the mobilization of FCHVs.	Nutrition Section of Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) requires sending a circular to all local government, calling all local government to distribute IFA to adolescent girls (both in school and out of school) through mobilizing FCHVs in coordination with the Schools. This circular need to send as earliest as possible to ensure IFA distribution starts from Shrawan, 2078.
2	Zero Dosing of Vitamin 'A' capsule in October 2021 round.	Given that existing VAC distribution is not designed for individual child tracking for two doses of Vitamin 'A' capsule supplementation and immunization, there need to include survey questionnaire on Zero dosing in upcoming surveys. Child Friendly Tracker Survey and Poshan Surveys can be option to collect the information.
3	MNP/IYCF barrier analysis	Documents collected for the review purpose. 2 meeting organized to collect views on the key barriers on poor coverage and

		<p>compliance on MNP among the expert team.</p> <p>There is no evidence brand name, packaging material, MNP compositing are the barriers for the MNP coverage and compliance. There is no change in the MNP distribution modality and Health facilities are following MNP distribution using mixed model (Health Facilities and FCHVs). MNP distribution through FCHV is more dominant by the biannual Vitamin 'A' distribution. As per field level consultation, key barrier in the MNP distribution is associated with the challenges faced with the community engagement and community mobilization in the absence of tools for community engagement and mobilization.</p> <p>Expert team is working on developing papers to suggest key action that can help in improving the coverage and compliance (On progress).</p>
--	--	--

C. Major issues and mitigating measures (maximum three major issues)

SN	Major issues	Mitigating measures
1.	Challenge in WIFAS distribution.	Send a circular to all palikas to distribute Iron folic acid tablet through FCHVs for both adolescent girls in school and adolescent girls in out of school under schooler closer situation.
2.	Zero dosing of Vitamin 'A' capsule	Develop a questionnaire tool on the zero dosing of preschool children with Vitamin 'A' capsule and include this questionnaire tool in upcoming surveys.
3.	Low coverage and compliance of MNP	Continue with the mixed model of MNP distribution using Health Facility and FCHVs as the point of MNP distribution and IYCF counselling. Invest more on the community engagement and social mobilization to improve MNP coverage and compliance.