

After COVID-19 onset, this the 34th meeting of National Nutrition Cluster jointly with Provincial Nutrition Clusters of 7 provinces. 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 participants from different organizations were invited out of which 70 plus attended via zoom link.

AGENDA FOR NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING

Time	Agenda Items
1:00 AM to 3:00 PM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chair of the meeting, welcome to the participants: Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, National Nutrition Cluster-lead 2. Sharing of meeting agenda: Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF and National Nutrition cluster co-lead 3. Speech from the Director General of Department of Health Services of MoHP 4. Major updates of nutrition cluster: Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, National Nutrition Cluster lead 5. Updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors): - major briefs/key achievements, key issues, and way forwards/action points 6. Updates from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups 7. Remarks from National Planning Commission 8. Remarks with the closing of the meeting - Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, Nutrition Cluster lead

Major Decisions:

Decision 1: It is decided to request to all Provincial Health Directors for regular participation of Provincial Directors or Nutrition Focal Points in the nutrition cluster meeting and present provincial Nutrition briefing.

Decision 2: Provincial Health Directorates and concerned support agencies to develop specific plan to bring SAM children to the OTCs or NRH

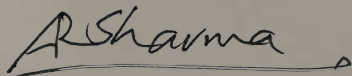
Decision 3: It is requested to all the provincial health directorate and development agencies to circulate simplified approach for treatment of SAM and MAM children to the respective concerned local level, Health Facilities and OTCs and immediately start the treatment through the simplified approach.

Decision 4: It is requested to all the provincial health and nutrition cluster team to support to their respective places through different medium if any emergencies occur and also request to inform and take support from Nutrition Section of FWD.

Decision 5: Adolescent IFA supplementation will be initiated from Sharawan 2078 (July/August 2078) and it is requested to all health facilities for the management of adolescent IFA programme.

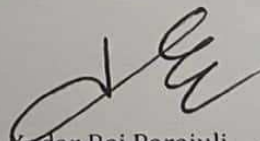
The next National Nutrition Cluster Meeting (34th Meeting) will be held on 1st Sharawan, 2078 (25th June 2021) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM via zoom link.

Signed by the Co-Chair of the Nutrition Cluster Meeting:



Mr. Anirudra Sharma
Co-lead, National Nutrition Cluster
11th Asadh, 2078 (25th June, 2021)
From: United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Signed by the Chair of the Nutrition Cluster Meeting:



Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli
Lead, national Nutrition Cluster
11th Asadh, 2078 (25th June 2021)
From: Government of Nepal (GoN)

Major Discussion/Action points
Agenda 1: Chair of the meeting, welcome and sharing of meeting agenda
<p>Chair of the meeting: Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MoHP as well as Nutrition Cluster lead of Federal Level Nutrition Cluster chaired the session with co-chairing by Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF and co-lead of National Nutrition cluster</p> <p>Welcome and sharing of meeting agenda: Chair of meeting Mr. Kedar Parajuli welcomed all the participants and Mr. Anirudra Sharma co-chair shared the meeting agenda.</p> <p>This is the 34th virtual meeting of national nutrition cluster jointly with provincial nutrition cluster after the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. Altogether more than 60 Participants participated in the meeting (see annex 1 for details of the participants list)</p>
Agenda 2: Updates from National Nutrition cluster
MR. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MoHP as well as Nutrition Cluster lead provided the brief update on situation of COVID-19 and nutrition status of country. The updates have been included in Annex II:
Agenda 3: Updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors): – major briefs/key achievements, key issues, and way forwards/action points
<p>The Directors/representatives from all 7 provinces presented the overall situation of COVID-19 and progress made by the nutrition cluster of their respective provinces since last meeting, which was held on Friday 21st Jestha, 2078 (4th June, 2021). Following Directors/representatives presented the major highlights, achievements, issues, challenges, and way forward of their respective provinces as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Basnet, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 1 2. Mr. Vijay Jha, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2 3. Mr. Shambhu Kafle, Acting Director of Provincial Health Directorate, Bagmati Province 4. Mr. Nani Baby Dani, Provincial Health Directorate, Gandaki Province 5. Mr. Mr. Bhumi Sharma, MSNP coordinator, on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate, Lumbini Province 6. Ms. Man Kumari Gurung, Provincial Health Directorate, Karnali Province 7. Dr. Guna Raj Awasthi, Provincial Health Directorate, Sudurpaschim Province <p>Action points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation on simplified approach for Bagmati and Karnali province should be finalized as soon as possible. • In addition, the provinces where orientation has been completed requested them to plan orientation to districts and local level as soon as possible. • Strengthen the mechanism to bring SAM children to the OTCs and NRH • Develop strategies on information collection, nutritional assessment and improve the nutrition status of under 5 children in COVID-19 context. • Plan to Orient on simplified approach on SAM/MAM treatment for all LLG • All provinces to complete nutrition in emergency preparedness and response plan by the end of current fiscal year. • Karnali province to complete the procurement process of Supercereal by the end of current fiscal year. • Adolescent IFA supplementation will be initiated from Bhadra 2078 (July/August 2078) and it is requested to all facilities for the management of adolescent IFA programme. • 3W mapping is an important mechanism in emergencies. Therefore, all cluster member agencies are requested to submit their activities in the given template by 28 June 2021.
Agenda 4: Updates from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups (IMAM, IYCF, BCC, Micro-nutrient, Information Management and Assessment TWG.
<p>Ms. Bhim Pun, chair of IYCF TWG Mr. Sanjay Rijal, Chair of Assessment TWG Mr. Naveen Poudyal, Chair of MN TWG Ms. Sangeeta Poudyal, Chair of Information Management TWG</p>

Mr. Sheela Sharma, member of BCC TWG

- Share final version of IYCF assessment report to all federal and provincial cluster members.
- Adoption of RCCE guideline for the promotion of nutrition in COVID-19 context
- Develop messages on the basis of IYCF rapid assessment findings and key contents and messages from any TWG
- Use of Various platforms to disseminate messages
- Prepositioning of the audio contents on covid-19, flood, and nutrition
- 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.
- Develop a questionnaire tool on the zero dosing of preschool children with Vitamin 'A' capsule and include this questionnaire tool in upcoming surveys.
- 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.

Ms. Laxmi Ghimire, Program Director from NPC provided major highlights as follows:

- She thanked to all participants of the cluster meeting for making nutrition program more effective and action oriented.
- She also told that the agenda of the cluster meeting is very effective as guided by lead and co-lead which made the meeting more effective, action oriented and sustainable.
- She also told that the updates, recommendations, and action points of Provinces and TWG support guide to improve the nutrition status of boys and girls of every age through different approaches and practices at different provinces. She also requested presenters to present major problems and lesson learned which support and guide to every participant of the cluster.
- She explained that MoHP at Federal level and other ministries have allocated enough budget for nutrition programme and requested provinces and Local levels to do the same practice.
- She also highlighted that the target group should be focused, and more coordination and collaboration is needed.
- She also explained that such coordination meeting and support to each other provinces as needed.

Agenda 6: Closing of meeting

- Mr. Anirudra Sharma, nutrition cluster co-lead and the meeting facilitator thanked to all participants of the meeting and expressed his gratefulness towards team of Nutrition Section of FWD and Mr. Kedar raj Parajuli for continuous leadership of nutrition cluster for nutrition response in the COVID-19 context. Similarly, he thanked to all Directors of PHDs and team, Director of National Planning Commission Ms. Laxmi Ghimire, representative from nutrition section of FWD, members of federal and provincial nutrition clusters, chief and representatives from donors and development partners, and all participants for their active participation in the meeting. Finally, he requested to Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli to close the meeting with the announcement of new meeting date.
- Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, the lead of national nutrition cluster and Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MoHP thanked to NPC, Director General from DOHS, Director of FWD, and Provincial Health Directors, all support agencies and provincial and federal level nutrition cluster members, National Planning Commission and all the health personnel. Similarly, Mr. Parajuli requested to all provincial participants to participate in the upcoming nutrition cluster meetings regularly. He further requested to provincial representatives to make provincial presentation by the Director of PHD representatives or by nutrition focal point in case Director is unable to attend the cluster meeting.
- He highlighted that we have enough resource, but the utilization rate is very low. The numbers of acute malnutrition of under five years children is very high in Nepal but we are unable to identify and provide the treatment services to the needy children.
- He briefed to all the seven provinces that BMS inspector from Government of Nepal will be selected soon and we have to monitor the sales and distribution of BMS strongly throughout the country.
- He told that the IYCF rapid assessment result is very interesting and useful. The recommendations are very important and need to discuss more to apply the recommendations of the IYCF rapid assessment.

- He suggested to invite the representative of provincial policy and planning commission as well as district health offices of Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu districts.
- During his remarks, he explained that from the next fiscal year there will be three more NRH at Tulsipur Hospital, Bajura Hospital and Jiri Hospital.
- He explained that the Provincial cluster meeting is very importance and we feel that our presence is also very importance to understand more about the program of the province and local levels. He requested provincial health directorates and other colleagues to communicate to federal level nutrition cluster lead and co-lead as well as staff members of FWD.

Finally, Mr. Parajuli announced the next nutrition cluster meeting to be organized on 1st Sharawan, 2078 (i.e. 16th July 2021) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM via zoom link.

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. Dr. Guna Raj Awasthi, Director, PHD, Sudurpaschim Province
4. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Basnet, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 1
5. Mr. Vijay Jha, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2
6. Mr. Shambhu Kafle, Acting Director of Provincial Health Directorate, Bagmati Province
7. Mr. Nani Baby Dani, Provincial Health Directorate, Gandaki Province
8. Ms. Man Kumari Gurung, Provincial Health Directorate, Karnali Province
9. Ms. Sheela Sharma, NHEICC
10. Mr. Shrawan Adhikari, FAO
11. Ms. Pooja Pandey, Deputy Director
12. Mr. Naveen Poudyal, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
13. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Bhujel, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
14. Ms. Meena Thapa, Nutrition officer, UNICEF
15. Mr. Binod Nepal, UNICEF
16. Mr. Uttam Acharya, Nutrition Specialist, FAO/FANSEP
17. Ms. Bhim Pun, SUSAHARA II /USAID
18. Ms. Sabina Hora, HKI
19. Ms. Puja Chand, NRH Dadeldhura
20. Mr. Indra Bahadur Bhujel, SUSAHARA II /USAID
21. Mr. Jeevan Ghimire, Health Policy Officer, DFID
22. Ms. Sumi Maskey, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
23. Ms. Bindu Panthi, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
24. Mr. Deepak Thapa, NTAG
25. Mr. Harihar Sharma, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
26. Ms. Meena Gautam, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
27. Ms. Kalpana Pandey, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
28. Dr. Salil Rana, FWD/HKI
29. Ms. Anju Acharya, National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS), National Planning Commission
30. Ms. Anju Adhikari, Nutrition section, FWD/UNICEF
31. Mr. Sher Singh Dahit, UNICEF/MOFA
32. Ms. Elina Sharma (NRH Okhaldhunga)
33. Ms. Rashmi Jha, NRH, Province 2
34. Ms. Naomi Saville consultant to FCDO and researcher at University College London

35. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP, Karnali Province
36. Mr. Sunil Khatiwada, SUSAHARA II /USAID
37. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma-USAID/Suaahara II
38. Mr. Debendra Adhikari, Nutrition Specialist, USAID
39. Mr. Sudip Chiluwal, Program Coordinator, NEPHEG
40. Mr. Raj Nandan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, SUSAHARA II /USAID
41. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal, SUSAHARA II /USAID
42. Mr. KP Lamsal, Nutrition section, FWD/WFP
43. Mr. Rajendra Adhikari, Suaahara II/USAID, Surkhet
44. Mr. Bharat Sarma - Program Coordinator/Provincial Focal person Province-1, Suaahara II/USAID
45. Ms. Chitrakala Nepal, intern, FWD, Nutrition section
46. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma-USAID/Suaahara II
47. Mr. Subhash Gautam - Suaahara II, Province 1 coordinator
48. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal-program coordinator/provincial focal person, province-3, Suaahara II/USAID
49. Mr. Bhumiswar Sharma, Program Coordinator, Suaahara II/USAID
50. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator- Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
51. Ms. Nisha Sharma, HKI
52. Mr. Gyanendra Dawadi, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Sudur Paschim Province
53. Mr. Man Bahadur Kunwar, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Karnali, Paschim Province
54. Mr. Bhumi Sharma, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Lumbini Province
55. Ms. Pabitra Sapkota, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Gandaki Province
56. Mr. Purushottam Aryal, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Bagamati Province
57. Mr. Hemanta Jha, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Province number 2
58. Mr. Sanjiv Ghishing, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Province number 1
59. Mr. Purushottam Aryal, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Bagamati Province
60. Ms. Prativa AC, NPC
61. Mr. Hemanta Jha, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Province number 2
62. Mr. Lokendra Thapa, Province Coordinator, UASAIID/SUSAHARA Program, SUDUR PASHCHIM Province
63. Babita Adhikari
64. Abhilasha Gurung, World Vision International
65. Jitendra Shah, PHDI-Suaahaara
66. Manisha Shrestha, FHI, Suaahaara II
67. Nabaraj Rawal
68. Nitesh Shrestha, Suaahaara-II
69. Purushottam Aryal-MSNP coordinator, Bagamati province
70. Ramesh Adhikari, Keshu Kafle, Provincial Health Training Center, Province number 1

Annex 2: 34th Meeting of National Nutrition Cluster, 11 Ashadh 2078 (25 June 2021)

(Briefing from nutrition cluster lead- as of 24 June 2021)

1. Situation of COVID-19:

Indicators	Global Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic		National Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic	
	03 June 2021	24 June 2021	03 June 2021	24 June 2021
Number COVID-19 positive cases	171,962,456	180,374,258	576,936	659,365
Number of deaths among the positive cases	3,576,847 (2.1%)	3,907,694 (2.2%)	7,630 (1.32%)	8,918 (1.5%)
Number of Recovered	154,475,855	165,100,576 (91.5%)	467,467 (81%)	570,958 (90.7%)
Number of PCR tested			3,106,938	Total tested: 3,464,291 (Antigen: 161,542)
Active COVID-19 cases among the Positive cases	13,909,754 (8.1%)	11,355,986 (6.3%)	101,839 (17.7%)	79,489 (12%)
Number of people in Ventilation and ICU			ICU: 1,444 Ventilator: 398	ICU: 736 Ventilator: 207

Status of past 24 hours of COVID-19 in Nepal:

- Recovered discharged: 2,518
- Deaths: 24
- Total COVID-19 tested: 12,232
- New COVID-19 cases: 2,474
- Positive cases in ICU: 1,444
- Positive cases in Ventilators: 398

2. Major Progress made after 33rd nutrition cluster meeting:

- Completed orientations of simplified approach in Province 1, 2, Gandaki and Lumbini Province to the Provincial cluster members and DHO for the treatment of MAM and SAM.
- Ongoing telephone counselling and SMS messaging on maternal nutrition, IYCF and care to the pregnant and lactating women and care givers of under two years children.
- 529 children aged 6-59 months with SAM have been admitted and getting treatment in the outpatient therapeutic centres and nutrition rehabilitation homes.
- Ongoing Infant and Young Child Feeding Counselling for caregivers of children under two years in Point of Entry in Sudurpaschim.
- 10,420 children 6-23 months age and 6,639 pregnant and lactating women have been benefitted from ongoing distribution of supplementary food in five districts of Karnali province.
- Procurement of super cereal and RUTF is under process.
- MoHP approved five years costed action plan (2078/078-2081/082) in line with National Nutrition Strategy.

- Supply of F75 and F100 to all the seven provinces.
- Organized an orientation to health office of Kailali and health coordinators and staff of OTCs on IMAM Program through virtual meeting.

3. Issues and challenges

- Health staff fully engaged with COVID-19 response and care, limiting capacity to deliver essential nutrition services.
- Lack of sufficient resources to meet the needs of supplementary food to 6-23 months children, pregnant and lactating women in the most affected areas.
- Malnutrition cases are increasing in the community but very low assessment and identification.
- Sindhupalchowk flood and its effects to under 5 children and Pregnant and Lactating women.
- Monsoon and its effects in Nutrition.

4. Way forward/next steps:

- Complete orientation on Simplified approach in Bagmati province, Karnali and Sudurpaschim province; and move ahead to implement it for the treatment of MAM and SAM children.
- Finalize NRH operational guideline
- Continue service monitoring of ongoing nutrition interventions
- Sensitize FCHV and health workers to continue nutrition service smoothly.
- Immediate response to Sindhupalchowk and other affected areas.
- FY 78/79 Nutrition budget and its planning for implementation