

35th NATIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING VIA ZOOM LINK

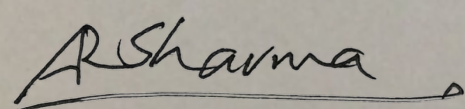
KATHMANDU, NEPAL

1st Shrawan, 2078 (16th July, 2021)

After COVID-19 onset, this the 35th 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 55 plus attended via zoom link.

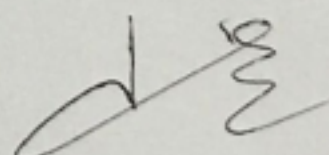
| AGENDA FOR NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING | |
|--|---|
| Time | Agenda Items |
| 1:00 AM to 3:00 PM | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Chair of the meeting, welcome to the participants: Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, National Nutrition Cluster-lead2. Sharing of meeting agenda: Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF and National Nutrition cluster co-lead3. Speech from the Director General of Department of Health Services of MoHP4. Major updates of nutrition cluster: Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, National Nutrition Cluster lead5. Updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors): - major briefs/key achievements, key issues, and way forwards/action points6. Updates from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups7. Remarks from MoEST8. Remarks from the Director of Family Welfare Division of DOHS/MoHP9. Remarks from National Planning Commission10. Remarks with the closing of the meeting: Chair of the meeting - Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, Nutrition Cluster lead |
| Major Decisions: Decision 1: It is requested to all the province and local level to go through the approved budget of Nutrition sent by Federal level and start to implement the program based on the budget implementation guideline prepared by FWD/MoHP. Decision 2: Implement simplified approach for treating SAM/MAM cases from all OTCs effective during COVID 19 pandemic . The next National Nutrition Cluster Meeting (36th Meeting) will be held on 22 nd Shrawan, 2078 (i.e. 6 th August 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
1st Shrawan, 2078 (16th July 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
1st Shrawan, 2078 (16th July 2021)
From: Government of Nepal (GoN)

Major Discussion/Action points

Agenda 1: Chair of the meeting, welcome and sharing of meeting agenda

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

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.

This is the 35th virtual meeting of national nutrition cluster jointly with provincial nutrition cluster after the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. Altogether more than 55 Participants participated in the meeting (see annex 1 for details of the participants list)

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

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:

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 Babu Dani, Provincial Health Directorate, Gandaki Province
5. Mr. Mr. Bhumi Sharma, MSNP coordinator, on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate, Lumbini Province
6. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate, Karnali Province
7. Dr. Guna Raj Awasthi, Provincial Health Directorate, Sudurpaschim Province

Action points:

- The dates for the orientation on simplified approach for Bagmati province should be finalized as soon as possible.
- All provincial health directorates are requested to plan and orient the districts and local level as soon as possible.
- Continue regular nutrition program and ensure adequate Nutrition Supplies at all health facilities.
- Nutrition in COVID-19 awareness through miking and FCHV Mobilization- with support of UNICEF.
- Continuation of Activities on Nutrition Awareness and Screening by Supporting Partners
- Provincial Health Logistic Management Center to update the logistic information of the health facilities (OTCs/NRH) and timely supply the nutrition commodities as per demand.
- Initiate to implement nutrition programme as per the AWPB of FY 2078/2079

Agenda 4: Updates from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups (IMAM, IYCF, BCC, Micro-nutrient, Information Management and Assessment TWG.

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
Mr. Sheela Sharma, member of BCC TWG

IYCF TWG:

- Finalize IYCF-E checklist /tools in our context that developed by Global Nutrition cluster in Nepal context.
- Revise IYCF-E key messages in context of Emergency.

BCC TWG:

- Broadcast radio PSAs on prioritizing pregnant and lactating women during mealtime and for nutritious food continues.
- Initiate communication interventions to promote breastfeeding during upcoming breastfeeding week.

MN TWG:

- MN TWG and BCC TWG to work together for promotion of behavioral change communication (BCC) approaches to increase coverage and compliance for MNP since those short-term effect of MNP can be overcome with better counselling to parents and caretakers.

Assessment TWG:

- Reinitiate discussion for SMART survey in province number 2.
- Initiate dialogue to adjust altitude for measuring stunting in new population-based surveys like NDHS, NMICS, NLSS to estimate stunting prevalence. This may appear one of major issues in days to come. It was decided to do a presentation on it in the cluster meeting.

IM TWG:

- Continue covid tracking and 3W mapping from all cluster partners. All partners are requested to fill the tracking sheet and back to the Chair of IM TWG.
- Develop nutrition cluster bulletin.
- Follow with provincial nutrition cluster to update cluster member list of all 7 clusters.

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

- She thanked to all participants and For continuing nutrition cluster meeting and effective working in the field also.
- She also told that the content is very good and guide by lead and co-lead and making the meeting more effective, action oriented and sustainable
- She is very much impressed from the work/responsibilities performed from the provinces.
- The programme and budget presentation by the Kedar sir is very impressed and the programme should be implemented from the beginning of the fiscal year.
- She highlighted about Breast feeding corners, nutrition corners school health and nutrition programme, school WASH interventions and child friendly initiatives should be followed.
- She felt good about the increment of FCHVs incentives.
- She highlighted about health insurance and nutrition it would be good to integrate nutrition with health insurance.
- NPC has supported health and nutrition programme budget and nutrition programme should be more attentive and we can work together.
- The governments at all level need to focus the equity and focusing women and disadvantaged for programme implementation so that we can achieve the good results. We must have best performance in results.
- She also highlighted the localized SDG.
- Finally, she suggested to strict on time and the meeting should be finished in given time.

Mr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Director General of DoHS provided major highlights as follows:

- Dr Dipendra thanked to all participants for making nutrition program more effective and action oriented. This meeting is very important because we are going to start new programme in new fiscal year.
- He also highlighted vaccination against the COVID-19. He highlighted vaccination programme ...John son, variceal vaccines.
- Nutrition specifications of nutrition commodities has been passed and DoHS will initiate the procurement process as soon as possible.
- Nutrition cluster coordination, regular meeting by bringing all concerned stakeholders together has been very effective and such meeting supporting to run the nutrition programme effectively.
- He also thanked to Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli for briefing the new AWPB and requested to all participants to start implementation on time the new plan and budget.
- In addition, he thanked all participants of the meeting for continuing nutrition cluster meeting at all levels.
- Finally, he wished all the best for the starting the new fiscal year 2078/79.

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 to the participants of the meeting. Similarly, he thanked to DG DoHS, Director of FWD, Director of NPC, all Directors of PHDs and representatives, all members of national and provincial nutrition clusters, and all participants for their active participation in the meeting. He expressed especial thanks to Mr. Kedar Parajuli, the national nutrition cluster coordinator for his active cluster leadership and national nutrition programme. 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 the Director General from DOHS, Director of FWD, Director of NPC, Provincial Health Directors, all support agencies, provincial and federal level nutrition cluster team members, National Planning Commission and all the health personnel. Similarly, Mr. Parajuli requested to all the provincial participants to participate in the upcoming nutrition cluster meetings regularly and he further he requested to make provincial presentation by the PHD representatives in the next meeting.
- He also requested all the provincial health team to go through the approved budget and start implementation on time. The guideline is already approved, and we need to start implementation of new programme.
- He further added we successfully completed the fiscal year 2077/078 and entering new FY 2078/2079. In this regard, he thanked to all participants for their active roles to implement nutrition programme at all levels, and requested to all to move forward for timely implementation of new programme as per the approved AWPB for FY 2078/079.

Finally, Mr. Parajuli announced the next nutrition cluster meeting to be organized on 22nd Shrawan, 2078 (i.e. 6th 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. Mr. Shalik Ram Bhusal, section Chief Focal Person of MoEST
4. Dr. Guna Raj Awasthi, Director, PHD, Sudurpaschim Province
5. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Basnet, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 1
6. Mr. Vijay Jha, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2
7. Mr. Shambhu Kafle, Acting Director of Provincial Health Directorate, Bagmati Province
8. Mr. Nani Baby Dani, Provincial Health Directorate, Gandaki Province
9. Ms. Man Kumari Gurung, Provincial Health Directorate, Karnali Province
10. Ms. Min Raj Joshi, Nutrition Focal Person, Provincial Health Directorate, Sudurpaschim Province
11. Ms. Sheela Sharma, NHEICC
12. Mr. Shrawan Adhikari, FAO
13. Ms. Pooja Pandey, Deputy Director
14. Mr. Naveen Poudyal, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
15. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Bhujel, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
16. Ms. Meena Thapa, Nutrition officer, UNICEF
17. Mr. Binod Nepal, UNICEF
18. Mr. Uttam Acharya, Nutrition Specialist, FAO/FANSEP
19. Ms. Bhim Pun, SUSAHARA II /USAID
20. Ms. Sabina Hora, HKI
21. Ms. Puja Chand, NRH Dadeldhura
22. Mr. Indra Bahadur Bhujel, SUSAHARA II /USAID
23. Mr. Jeevan Ghimire, Health Policy Officer, DFID
24. Ms. Sumi Maskey, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
25. Ms. Bindu Panthi, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
26. Mr. Deepak Thapa, NTAG
27. Mr. Harihar Sharma, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
28. Ms. Meena Gautam, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
29. Ms. Kalpana Pandey, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
30. Dr. Salil Rana, FWD/HKI
31. Ms. Anju Acharya, National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS), National Planning Commission
32. Ms. Anju Adhikari, Nutrition section, FWD/UNICEF
33. Mr. Sher Singh Dahit, UNICEF/MOFAGA
34. Ms. Elina Sharma (NRH Okhaldhunga)
35. Ms. Rashmi Jha, NRH, Province 2
36. Ms. Naomi Saville consultant to FCDO and researcher at University College London
37. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP, Karnali Province
38. Mr. Sunil Khatiwada, SUSAHARA II /USAID
39. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma-USAID/Suaahara II
40. Mr. Debendra Adhikari, Nutrition Specialist, USAID
41. Mr. Sudip Chiluwal, Program Coordinator, NEPHEG
42. Mr. Raj Nandan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, SUSAHARA II /USAID
43. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal, SUSAHARA II /USAID
44. Mr. KP Lamsal, Nutrition section, FWD/WFP
45. Mr. Rajendra Adhikari, Suaahara II/USAID, Surkhet
46. Mr. Bharat Sarma - Program Coordinator/Provincial Focal person Province-1, Suaahara II/USAID
47. Ms. Chitrakala Nepal, intern, FWD, Nutrition section
48. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma-USAID/Suaahara II
49. Ms. Gita Bista, NRH, Kailali

50. Subhash Gautam - Suaahara II, Province 1 coordinator
51. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal-program coordinator/provincial focal person, province-3, Suaahara II/USAID
52. Mr. Bhumiswar Sharma, Program Coordinator, Suaahara II/USAID
53. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator- Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
54. Ms. Chhamkala Kafle program manager (Bharatpur NRH)
55. Ms. Nisha Sharma, HKI
56. Mr. Gyanendra Dawadi, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Sudur Paschim Province
57. Mr. Man Bahadur Kunwar, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Karnali, Paschim Province
58. Mr. Bhumi Sharma, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Lumbini Province
59. Ms. Pabitra Sapkota, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Gandaki Province
60. Mr. Purushottam Aryal, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Bagamati Province
61. Mr. Hemanta Jha, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Province number 2
62. Mr. Sanjiv Ghishing, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Province number 1
63. Mr. Purushottam Aryal, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Bagamati Province
64. Ms. Geeta Bista, NRH Kailali
65. Ms. Ganga Limbu, NRH, Bhadrapur
66. Ms. Nirmaya Gurung, NRH Pokhara
67. Mr. Uttam Acharya, FAO
68. Ms. Prativa AC, NPC
69. Mr. Hemanta Jha, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Province number 2
70. Ms. Sushma Chhetri, MDI, District Nutrition Coordinator, Kalikot
71. Mr. Lokendra Thapa, Province Coordinator, UASAIID/SUAAHARA Program, SUDUR PASHCHIM Province

Annex 2: Annex 2: 35th Meeting of National Nutrition Cluster 1st Shrawan, 2078 (16th July 2021)

1. Situation of COVID-19 (as of 15 July 2021):

| <u>Indicators</u> | <u>Global Situation</u> | | <u>National Situation</u> | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| | <u>24 June 2021</u> | <u>15 July 2021</u> | <u>24 June 2021</u> | <u>15 July 2021</u> |
| Number COVID-19 positive cases | 180,374,258 | 189,183,522 | 659,365 | 709,437 |
| Number of deaths among the positive cases | 3,907,694 (2.2%) | 4,074,687 (2.2%) | 8,918 (1.5%) | 9,463 (1.5%) |
| Number of Recovered | 165,100,576 (91.5%) | 172,809,853 (91.3%) | 570,958 (90.7%) | 626,468 (94.6%) |
| Number of PCR tested | | | Total tested: 3,464,291 (Antigen: 161,542) | Total Tested: 3,698,640 (Antigen: 252,054) |
| Active COVID-19 cases among the Positive cases | 11,355,986 (6.3%) | 12,298,982 (6.5%) | 79,489 (12%) | 73,507 (10.36%) |
| Number of people in Ventilation and ICU | | | ICU: 736 Ventilator: 207 | ICU: 164 Ventilator: 62 |

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

- Recovered: 1,757
- Deaths: 33
- Total COVID-19 tested: 12,768
- New COVID-19 cases: 2,676
- Positive cases in ICU: 164
- Positive cases in Ventilators: 62

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

- 402 children aged 6-59 months with severe acute malnutrition (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 PoEs in Lumbini and Sudurpaschim provinces. SMS messages on Infant and Young Child Feeding and caring practices reached 254,923 caregivers.
- 7,017 children aged 6-23 months received multiple micro-nutrient powder for the prevention and control of micro-nutrient deficiency disorders.
- Completed orientation on “Simplified Approach for the treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition” to more than 170 provincial health and nutrition stakeholders, nutrition cluster members and chief and nutrition focal points of District health Offices (DHO) of Province one, province two, Gandaki province, Lumbini province, Karnali province and Sudurpaschim province.
- 170,070 households reached with 118 FM radio messages nationwide on nutrition and caring practices.
- 2,574 pregnant and lactating women received counselling services through home visit by frontline nutrition workers.

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.

4. Way forward/next steps:

- Complete orientation on Simplified approach to provincial nutrition cluster members, district health office in Bagmati province; and all health workers and FCHVs for the treatment of MAM and SAM children.
- Continue service monitoring of ongoing nutrition interventions
- Ensure preposition of Supercereal for the prevention of malnutrition in the most emergency affected areas.
- Increase treatment of SAM and MAM children at the OTCs by using simplified approach.
- Ensure supply provisions (RUTF) for the treatment of the children under five years with SAM and MAM.
- Start implementation of AWPB for FY 2078/079