

37th NATIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING VIA ZOOM LINK

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

18th Bhadra 2078 (3rd September 2021)

After COVID-19 onset, this the 37th 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 65 plus attended via zoom link.

AGENDA FOR NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING

Time	Agenda Items
11:00 AM to 1:00 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. Major updates of nutrition cluster: Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, National Nutrition Cluster lead4. Updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors): - major briefs/key achievements, key issues, and way forwards/action points5. Updates from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups6. Remarks from the Director of Family Welfare Division of DOHS/MoHP7. Speech from the Director General of Department of Health Services of MoHP8. 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: WFP need to be in standby position for Blanket Supplementary Feeding interventions in the flood affected areas as needed.

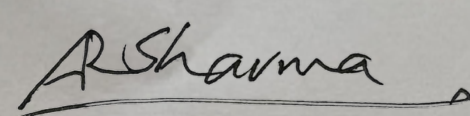
Decision 2: Simplified approach orientation should be completed by respective provinces for health offices within two months incoordination and co-operation of supporting agency especially by UNICEF and SUSAHARA.

Decision 3: The implementation status of nutrition program reflected in red book of this Fiscal Year 2078/2079 of 1st trimester should be presented in the next National Nutrition Cluster Meeting.

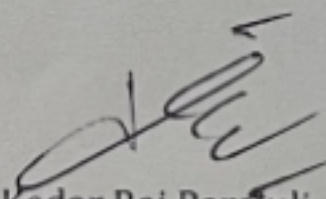
The next National Nutrition Cluster Meeting (38th Meeting) will be held on 15th Ashoj, 2078 (i.e. 1st October 2021) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM via zoom link.

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

Signed by the Chair of the Nutrition Cluster Meeting:



Mr. Anirudra Sharma
Co-lead, National Nutrition Cluster
18th Bhadra, 2078 (03rd September 2021)
From: United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF)



Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli
Lead, National Nutrition Cluster
18th Bhadra, 2078 (03 September 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 37th virtual meeting of national nutrition cluster jointly with provincial nutrition cluster after the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. Altogether more than 65 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 22nd Shrawan, 2078 (6th August 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, Director, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 1
2. Mr. Binod Yadav, Senior Public Health Officer, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2
3. Mr. Shambhu Kafle, Senior Public Health Officer, Provincial Health Directorate, Bagmati Province
4. Ms. Pabitra Sapkota MSNP Coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate, Gandaki Province
5. Mr. Bhumi Acharya MSNP Coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission on behalf of, Nutrition Focal Point, Provincial Health Directorate, Lumbini Province
6. Dr. Rabin Khadka, Provincial Health Directorate, Karnali Province
7. Mr. Lokendra Thapa, on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate, Sudurpaschim Province

Action points:

- Continue orientation of simplified treatment approach to health coordinators of the local governments and health workers of the OTCs.
- Continue service monitoring of ongoing nutrition interventions.
- Review the stock of nutrition commodities and request to the Central medical stores on time copying to the nutrition section of FWD
- Preposition of Nutrition commodities for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition in the most emergency affected areas.
- Ensure adequate Nutrition Supplies at all health facilities.
- Initiate broadcasting of nutrition messages through FM radio services nationwide. Development partners are requested to support to the Government for this activity.
- Continue federal government's presence for OTC reviews.
- Identify the appropriate ways to accelerate to implement nutrition programme as per the AWPB of current FY 2078/2079.
- Revitalize the OTCs of Bagmati Provinces which were established during earthquake emergencies.
- Nutrition in emergency preparedness and response plan not yet approved in all provinces except Karnali Province. Therefore, it is requested to all provinces to accelerate the approval process of monsoon response plan.
- Support to organize Palika level nutrition review meeting in all palikas.

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

Presenters:

Mr. Naveen Poudyal, Chair of MN TWG

Ms. Sangeeta Poudyal, Chair of Information Management TWG and member of Assessment TWG

Mr. Sheela Shrestha, BCC TWG

Action points:

Common to all TWG:

- All TWG are requested to meet before the nutrition cluster meeting and discuss about technical issues/matters of nutrition in emergencies.
- The chairs of all TWG need to attend the cluster meeting and brief their concerned TWG progress, issues/lesson learned and way forwards.

BCC TWG:

- Bhanchhin Amma design documentation for this Fiscal Year has been prepared in collaboration with Multisector ministries and this design document is in the process of approval. This Bhanchhin Amma design documentation has been focused to all the family members of any families.

MN TWG:

- UNICEF has proceeded for designing and printing of 25,000 copies of CNSI FLIP Chart.
- Received an update from Management Division on bidding process of Procurement of MNP and Vitamin-A.

Assessment TWG:

- SMART survey training was held on district Saptari of Province 2 from 15th to 23rd August 2021. After that the data collection part had completed on 31st August and the team are working on the data entry process.

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.

Remarks:

Mr. Shalik Ram Bhusal, Under Secretary of Ministry of Education Science and Technology:

- Mr. Shalik Ram Bhusal thanked to all nutrition cluster team for the continuous effort of National Nutrition Cluster to reach till 37th Cluster meeting and provide strong technical support and guidance to organize this meeting in every 3 weeks.
- He explained that the nutrient meals budget has been allocated to all Government schools. And therefore, he requested to concerned stakeholder to support in their respective places/provinces/local government and facilitate to provide nutritious meal at the Government schools.

Dr Jhalak Gautam, Management Division:

- He told that this is the first time he was able to give full time to the National Nutrition Cluster. He was pleased to see the achievement and ongoing progress of the National Nutrition Cluster.

Dr. Bibek Kumar Lal, Director, Family Welfare Division of DoHS/MoHP:

- Dr Bibek Kumar Lal was welcomed first by the chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MoHP and requested to deliver his speech.
- Dr Bibek told that this is the first cluster meeting for him after joining as a Director of FWD and he said due to some ongoing emergency work he couldn't manage much time for today's meeting and promised that he will get an update from the team of Nutrition Cluster about the meeting and will support to Nutrition Program accordingly.

- He thanked to the chief of Nutrition Section and all the participants for welcoming him as the Director of FWD and committed to attend this meeting from next time.

Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Chief Specialist of Ministry of Health and Population:

- From today's meeting Dr Dipendra felt that the meeting is very important, and which is comprehensive discussion of national nutrition program ongoing at Federal, Provincial and Local levels.
- He very much impressed from the nutrition cluster meeting engaging the stakeholders nationwide and felt this is the best intervention of nutrition program which is ongoing from the 1st to 37th National Nutrition Cluster meeting after COVID-19 onset. The meetings have been providing strong support, guidance, coordination and collaboration for system strengthening and bring the best result for the improvement of the Nutrition Program at each level.
- Finally, he appreciated once again and thanked to all participants of the meeting.

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 Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Chief Specialist of Ministry of Health and Population, Dr. Bibek Kumar Lal, Director of Family Welfare Division, Dr Jhalak Gautam form Management Division, Mr. Shalik Ram Bhusal, Under Secretary of Ministry of Education Science and Technology for their important and valuable remarks and national Nutrition Cluster lead, Provincial Health Directors and representative, representatives from Development partners and all members of provincial and federal level nutrition clusters. He expressed especial thanks to Mr. Kedar Parajuli, the national nutrition cluster lead 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 Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, chief health specialist of Ministry of Health and Population, Dr. Bibek Kumar Lal, Director of Family Welfare Division, Dr Jhalak Gautam form Management Division, Mr. Shalik Ram Bhusal, Under Secretary of Ministry of Education Science and Technology and Nutrition cluster co-lead Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Provincial Health Directors and representatives from the PHD, representatives from development partners, all support agencies, provincial and federal level nutrition cluster team members, and all the health personnel attending in the meeting. Similarly, Mr. Parajuli requested to all the provincial participants to participate in the upcoming nutrition cluster meetings regularly.
- The implementation guideline to implement AWPB for FY 2078/79 has been already forwarded to all provinces and local levels. Therefore, he requested to UNICEF, Suahaara, WFP and other support agencies to make aware to all local levels about to implement AWPB for FY 2078/079. Similarly, he requested to all provincial health team to go through the annual workplan and budget and initiate implementation of nutrition specific interventions on time.
- He shared that Nutrition Section of FWD has been planning to organize a MToT on CNSI for Nutrition Focal Persons of Provincial Health Training Centers and Provincial Health Directorates of all seven provinces.
- He further requested to all participants that nutrition is a very important interventions to fight against COVID-19. Therefore, we all need to work effectively for effective implementation of nutrition specific interventions.

Finally, Mr. Parajuli announced the next nutrition cluster meeting (38th Meeting) will be held on 15th Ashoj, 2078 (i.e. 1st October 2021) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM via zoom link.

Annex 1: List of Participants in the meeting:

1. Dr. Bibek Kumar Lal, Director of FWD/DoHS/MoHP
2. Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DOHS/MoHP –Nutrition cluster lead
3. Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF – Nutrition cluster co-lead
4. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Bhujel, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 1
5. Mr. Binod Yadav, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2
6. Mr. Shambhu Kafle, Provincial Health Directorate, Bagmati Province
7. Dr. Rabin Khadka, Provincial Health Directorate, Karnali Province
8. Ms. Sheela Shrestha, NHEICC
9. Mr. Naveen Poudyal, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
10. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Bhujel, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
11. Mr. Uttam Acharya, Nutrition Specialist, FAO/FANSEP
12. Ms. Sabina Hora, HKI
13. Ms. Puja Chand, NRH Dadeldhura
14. Mr. Indra Bahadur Bhujel, SUSAHARA II /USAID
15. Mr. Jeevan Ghimire, Health Policy Officer, DFID
16. Ms. Sumi Maskey, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
17. Ms. Bindu Panthi, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
18. Mr. Deepak Thapa, NTAG
19. Mr. Harihar Sharma, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
20. Ms. Meena Gautam, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
21. Ms. Kalpana Pandey, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
22. Dr. Salil Rana, FWD/HKI
23. Ms. Anju Acharya, National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS), National Planning Commission
24. Ms. Anju Adhikari, Nutrition section, FWD/UNICEF
25. Mr. Sher Singh Dahit, UNICEF/MOFA
26. Ms. Elina Sharma (NRH Okhaldhunga)
27. Ms. Rashmi Jha, NRH, Province 2
28. Ms. Rashmi Jha, NRH Rajbiraj
29. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP, Karnali Province
30. Mr. Sunil Khatiwada, SUSAHARA II /USAID
31. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma-USAID/Suaahara II
32. Mr. Debendra Adhikari, Nutrition Specialist, USAID
33. Mr. Sudip Chiluwal, Program Coordinator, NEPHEG
34. Mr. Raj Nandan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, SUSAHARA II /USAID
35. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal, SUSAHARA II /USAID
36. Mr. KP Lamsal, Nutrition section, FWD/WFP
37. Mr. Rajendra Adhikari, Suaahara II/USAID, Surkhet
38. Mr. Bharat Sarma - Program Coordinator/Provincial Focal person Province-1, Suaahara II/USAID
39. Ms. Chitrakala Nepal, intern, FWD, Nutrition section
40. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma-USAID/Suaahara II
41. Ms. Gita Bista, NRH, Kailali
42. Ms. Sangita Khatri, Save the Children International
43. Mr. Subhash Gautam - Suaahara II, Province 1 coordinator
44. Mr. Purushottam Aryan, MSNP coordinator, Bagmati Province
45. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal-program coordinator/provincial focal person, province-3, Suaahara II/USAID
46. Mr. Bhumiswar Sharma, Program Coordinator, Suaahara II/USAID
47. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator- Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
48. Ms. Chhamkala Kafle program manager (Bharatpur NRH)
49. Ms. Nisha Sharma, HKI

50. Mr. Gyanendra Dawadi, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Sudur Paschim Province
51. Mr. Man Bahadur Kunwar, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Karnali, Paschim Province
52. Mr. Bhumi Sharma, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Lumbini Province
53. Ms. Pabitra Sapkota, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Gandaki Province
54. Mr. Hemanta Jha, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Province number 2
55. Mr. Sanjiv Ghishing, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Province number 1
56. Ms. Geeta Bista, NRH Kailali
57. Ms. Ganga Limbu, NRH, Bhadrapur
58. Ms. Nirmaya Gurung, NRH Pokhara
59. Ms. Prativa AC, NPC
60. Mr. Lokendra Thapa, Province Coordinator, USAID/SUAAHARA Program, SUDUR PASHCHIM Province

Annex 2: 37th Meeting of National Nutrition Cluster till 17th Bhadra 2078 (2nd September 2021)

Indicators	Global Situation		National Situation	
	05 August 2021	02 Sept 2021	05 August 2021	02 Sept 2021
Number COVID-19 positive cases	200,303,590	219,283,841	773,870	850,208
Number of deaths among the positive cases	4,259,650 (2.1%)	4,545,461 (2.1%)	9,994 (1.5%)	10,786 (1.5%)
Number of Recovered	180,563,030 (90.2%)	196,074,367 (89.4%)	663,663 (93.7%)	721,182 (94.12%)
Number of PCR tested	NA	NA	Total tested: 3,999,703 (Antigen:343,361)	Total tested: 4,413,676 (Antigen: 477,260)
Active COVID-19 cases among the Positive cases	15,480,910 (7.7%)	18,663,404 (8.5%)	34,422 (8.6%)	33,946 (4.43%)
Number of people in Ventilation and ICU	NA	NA	ICU: 713 Ventilator: 158	ICU: 544 Ventilator: 166

Situation of Monsoon Emergencies:

- The monsoon floods and landslides continue to further exacerbate the hardship already caused by COVID-19.
- 55 districts out of 77 have been affected including Sindhupalchowk, Nawalparasi, Myagdi, Manang, Darchula, Kailali, Lamjung and others.
- According to the latest report of NRCS dated 29 August 2021, 64 people have lost their lives, 35 people are have been mission, 69 injured, 5,940 family have been affected, 2,619 families have been displaced and 829 households are fully destroyed, and 931 households are partially destroyed.
- Public properties like schools, roads, bridges, government offices and hydropower stations have been damaged severely limiting access of relief to affected population.
- So far, there is no specific nutrition interventions except ongoing interventions.
- Nutrition cluster is readiness with prepositioning of nutrition commodities as well as readiness of the human resources (HWs and Development partners).

Progress made after 36th nutrition cluster meeting

- 2,427 children aged 6-59 months with SAM have been admitted and getting treatment in the 768 outpatient therapeutic centres in Shrawan and Bhadra 2078 (NRH data yet to receive).
- Ongoing Infant and Young Child Feeding Counselling for caregivers of children under two years in Point of Entry (PoEs) at the Indian borders of Lumbini and Sudurpaschim provinces.
- 150,737 pregnant and postnatal women received IFA tablets.
- 211,971 caregivers of under two years children received IYCF counselling.
- Initiated procurement process of nutrition commodities and opened the BID.
- 8,907 children aged 6-23 months received MNP for the prevention and control of micro-nutrient deficiencies.
- Completed orientation on “Simplified Approach” for the treatment of SAM and MAM and AWPB for 2078/079 to provincial health and nutrition stakeholders/cluster members and chief and nutrition focal points of District health Offices (DHO) of all 7 provinces. Similarly, same orientation has been completed in 17 districts with OTC review.
- Initiated SMART nutrition survey in Saptari districts and after the survey completed in Saptari, it will be expanded to cover all 8 districts of Province number 2
- Started bidding process for the procurement of Nutrition Commodities such as anthropometric measurement, MNP, vitamin A, super cereal plus.
- Organized monthly virtual meeting of nutrition rehabilitation homes (NRH) on 31st August 2021.
- Organized a meeting to develop Nutrition app (Mero Poshan Sathi) on 26th August 2021.

- With UNICEF's assistance, 8 people (5 from Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital, 2 from Family Welfare Division and one from UNICEF) visited to Delhi India to observe Comprehensive Lactation Management Center (CLKMC) including Human Milk Bank from 21-25 August 2021.
- Planned for provincial level CNSI MToT (2 participants one from National Health Training Center, Provincial Health Directorate). Tentative date is 27th Bhadra to 2nd Ashwin, 2078.
- Approved training manual and implementation guideline of Family MUAC approach.

Issues/Challenges

- Limited capacity of local governments to deliver essential nutrition services, identify children with severe and moderate acute malnutrition and admit for therapeutic care and treatment.
- Identified the vulnerable local levels need to BSFP support.
- Delayed in SAM/MAM identification and treatment
- Nutrition in Monsoon preparedness and response

Way forward/Next steps

- Continue orientation of simplified treatment approach.
- Continue service monitoring of ongoing nutrition interventions.
- Ensure preposition of Nutrition commodities including Supercereal for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition in the most emergency affected areas.
- OTC reviews in presence of nutrition section of FWD.
- Accelerate implementation of current Fiscal year's AWPB
- BSFP will be started in all 8 districts of province number 2 with the support of WFP from mid-September 2021.
- Family Support Package (Cash plus component) will be started soon with UNICEF support in Saptari as a COVID Response.
- Effective preparedness and response against nutrition in monsoon emergencies.
- Initiate pilot implementation of FAMILY MUAC approach in 4 districts.