

38<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING VIA ZOOM LINK

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

5<sup>th</sup> Kartik 2078 (22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021)

This is the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Nutrition Cluster, held jointly with Provincial Nutrition Clusters of 7 provinces after the onset of COVID-19. 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"><li>1. Chair of the meeting, welcome to the participants: Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, National Nutrition Cluster-lead</li><li>2. Sharing of meeting agenda: Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF, and National Nutrition cluster co-lead</li><li>3. Major updates of nutrition cluster: Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, National Nutrition Cluster lead</li><li>4. Updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors): – major briefs/key achievements, key issues, and way forwards/action points</li><li>5. Updates from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups</li><li>6. Remarks with the closing of the meeting: Chair of the meeting - Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli, Chief of Nutrition Section, Nutrition Cluster lead</li></ol>

Major Decisions:

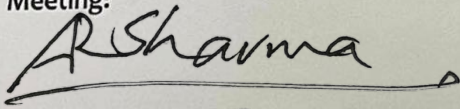
**Decision 1:** All provincial Health Directorates are requested to send their respective action plans based on the outcomes of national nutrition review meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Ashwin, 2078 at Dulikhel, Kavre before the next national nutrition cluster meeting.

**Decision 2:** All health authorities at all three tiers of government are requested to focus their efforts for successful completion of the National Vitamin A campaign to be held on 6-7 Kartik 2078 (24-25 October 2021)

**Decision 3:** All provincial authorities (Ministry of Social Development, Provincial Health Directorates, Provincial Health Training Center and Provincial Logistic Management Center) are requested to accelerate the implementation of nutrition programmes of this fiscal year based on the approved program guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Population.

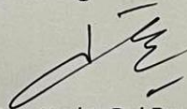
The next National Nutrition Cluster Meeting (38th Meeting) will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> Mangsir, 2078 (i.e. 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM via zoom link.

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



Mr. Anirudra Sharma  
Co-lead, National Nutrition Cluster  
5<sup>th</sup> Kartik, 2078 (22<sup>nd</sup> October 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  
5<sup>th</sup> Kartik, 2078 (22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021)  
From: Government of Nepal (GoN)



Major Discussion/Action points
<b>Agenda 1: Chair of the meeting, welcome and sharing of meeting agenda</b>
<p><b>Chair of the meeting:</b> 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 38<sup>th</sup> 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).</p>
<b>Agenda 2: Updates from National Nutrition cluster</b>
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:
<b>Agenda 3: Updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors): – major briefs/key achievements, key issues, and way forwards/action points</b>
<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 <b>18<sup>th</sup> Bhadra 2078 (3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021)</b>. 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"> <li>1. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Basnet, Director, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 1</li> <li>2. Mr. Vijay Jha, Director, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2</li> <li>3. Mr. Sagar Ghimire, Director, Provincial Health Directorate, Bagamati Province</li> <li>4. Mr. Nani Babu Dani, Public Health Officer, Provincial Health Directorate, Gandaki Province</li> <li>5. Mr. Kaushal Bhandari, Provincial Health Directorate, Lumbini Province</li> <li>6. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate, Karnali Province</li> <li>7. Mr. Gunaraj Awasthi, Director, Provincial Health Directorate, Sudurpaschim Province</li> </ol> <p><b>Action points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete orientation of Simplified approach to all health coordinators, OTCs and district health team for the treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition</li> <li>• Guide local levels/health facilities for record keeping and reporting of nutrition service statistics in the DHIS2</li> <li>• Strengthen monitoring and supervision of ongoing nutrition services</li> <li>• All provincial health logistic management enters to review the stock of nutrition commodities regularly and timely request to the central medical store copying to the nutrition section of FWD</li> <li>• Preposition of Nutrition commodities for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition in the most emergency affected areas.</li> <li>• Ensure adequate Nutrition Supplies at all health facilities.</li> <li>• Involve nutrition section of Family Welfare Division of DoHS/MoHP for the orientation of Simplified approach as well as OTC reviews.</li> <li>• Accelerate to implement nutrition programme as per the AWPB of current FY 2078/2079.</li> <li>• Revitalize the OTCs of Bagamati Provinces which were established during earthquake emergencies.</li> <li>• It is requested to all provinces to accelerate the approval process of monsoon/COVID-19 response plan.</li> <li>• Support to organize Nutrition Review at local level.</li> </ul>

- Gandaki province to initiate the expansion process of IMAM programme in the remaining districts such as Syangja, Parbat, Lamjung, Kaski etc...
- Support NRH to timely provide the SAM treatment reporting to the concerned Provincial Health Directorates and Nutrition section of FWD

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

**Presenters:**

**Ms. Bhim Pun, Chair of IYCF TWG**

Mr. Naveen Poudyal, Chair of MN TWG

Ms. Nikita Pokhrel, Member of Information Management TWG

**Action points:**

**Common to all TWG (very important):**

- 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.

**MN TWG:**

- Update about the National Vitamin-A program in the next cluster meeting to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.

**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 Provincial Health Directors and representatives, 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 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, Mr Parajuli requested to UNICEF, Suahaara, WFP and other support agencies/development partners 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.
- Mr. Parajuli highlighted again about the flood/landslides situation and explained that due to the flood and landslides, many people are busy to provide the response services. Therefore, all participants couldn't attend in this meeting, and therefore, he requested to all for their presence in the next meeting. Further, he

emphasized that the admission rate of acute malnutrition for treatment in the OTCs is very limited. Therefore, we need to accelerate the screening of the 6-59 months children and provide treatment of identified SAM and MAM children effectively at the OTCs.

- 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 the implementation of nutrition specific interventions.

Finally, Mr. Parajuli announced that the next nutrition cluster meeting (39th Meeting) will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> Mangsir, 2078 (i.e. 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM via zoom link, and closed the meeting.

## **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. Gunaraj Awasthi, Director, Sudur Paschim Health Directorate
4. Mr. Vijay Kumar Jha, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2
5. Mr. Sagar Ghimire, Provincial Health Directorate, Bagmati Province
6. Ms. Karan Courtney Haag, Chief of Nutrition Section, UNICEF
7. Mr. Gyan Bahadur Bhujel, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 1
8. Mr. Naveen Poudyal, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
9. Mr. Uttam Acharya, Nutrition Specialist, FAO/FANSEP
10. Ms. Sabina Hora, HKI
11. Ms. Puja Chand, NRH Dadeldhura
12. Mr. Indra Bahadur Bhujel, SUSAHARA II /USAID
13. Mr. Niraj KC, Suaahara/USAID
14. Mr. Jeevan Ghimire, Health Policy Officer, DFID
15. Ms. Sumi Maskey, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
16. Ms. Bindu Panthi, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
17. Mr. Deepak Thapa, NTAG
18. Mr. Harihar Sharma, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
19. Ms. Meena Gautam, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
20. Ms. Nisha Sharma, HKI
21. Ms. Kalpana Pandey, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
22. Dr. Salil Rana, FWD/HKI
23. Ms. Anju Adhikari, Nutrition section, FWD/UNICEF
24. Mr. Sher Singh Dahit, UNICEF/MOFAA
25. Ms. Elina Sharma (NRH Okhaldhunga)
26. Ms. Rashmi Jha, NRH, Province 2
27. Ms. Rashmi Jha, NRH Rajbiraj
28. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP, Karnali Province
29. Mr. Sunil Khatiwada, SUSAHARA II /USAID
30. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma-USAID/Suaahara II
31. Mr. Debendra Adhikari, Nutrition Specialist, USAID
32. Mr. Sudip Chiluwal, Program Coordinator, NEPHEG
33. Mr. Raj Nandan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, SUSAHARA II /USAID
34. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal, SUSAHARA II /USAID
35. Mr. KP Lamsal, Nutrition section, FWD/WFP
36. Mr. Rajendra Adhikari, Suaahara II/USAID, Surkhet
37. Mr. Bharat Sarma - Program Coordinator/Provincial Focal person Province-1, Suaahara II/USAID
38. Ms. Chitrakala Nepal, intern, FWD, Nutrition section
39. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma-USAID/Suaahara II
40. Ms. Gita Bista, NRH, Kailali
41. Ms. Sangita Khatri, Save the Children International
42. Mr. Subhash Gautam - Suaahara II, Province 1 coordinator
43. Mr. Purushottam Aryan, MSNP coordinator, Bagmati Province
44. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal-program coordinator/provincial focal person, province-3, Suaahara II/USAID

45. Mr. Bhumiswar Sharma, Program Coordinator, Suaahara II/USAID
46. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator- Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
47. Ms. Chhamkala Kafle program manager (Bharatpur NRH)
48. Mr. Gyanendra Dawadi, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Sudur Paschim Province
49. Mr. Man Bahadur Kunwar, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Karnali, Paschim Province
50. Mr. Bhumi Sharma, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Lumbini Province
51. Ms. Pabitra Sapkota, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Gandaki Province
52. Mr. Hemanta Jha, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Province number 2
53. Mr. Sanjiv Ghishing, MSNP coordinator, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Province number 1
54. Ms. Geeta Bista, NRH Kailali
55. Ms. Ganga Limbu, NRH, Bhadrapur
56. Ms. Nirmaya Gurung, NRH Pokhara
57. Ms. Prativa AC, NPC
58. Mr. Lokendra Thapa, Province Coordinator, UASAIID/SUAAHARA Program, SUDUR PASHCHIM Province

## Annex 2: Situation and Progress Presentation by Nutrition Cluster lead:

### 1. Status of COVID-19 as of 3rd Kartik 2078 (20 October 2021)

Indicators	Global Situation		National Situation	
	02 Sept 2021	20 October 2021	02 Sept 2021	20 October 2021
Number COVID-19 positive cases	219,283,841	242,364,345 Increased by 23 million (10.5 %)	850,208	900,484 Increased by 50,276 (6%)
Number of deaths among the positive cases	4,545,461 (2.1%)	4,929,541 (2%) Increased by 380,000 (8%)	10,786 (1.5%)	11,318 (1.4%) Increased by 532 (5%)
Number of Recovered	196,074,367 (89.4%)	219,694,797 (90.6%)	721,182 (94.12%)	784,155 (97.1%)
Number of PCR tested	NA	NA	Total tested: 4,413,676 (Antigen: 477,260)	Total tested: 4,980,123 (Antigen: 636,483)
Active COVID-19 cases among the Positive cases	18,663,404 (8.5%)	17,740,007 (7.4%)	33,946 (4.43%)	11,579 (1.29%)
Number of people in Ventilation and ICU	NA	NA	ICU: 544 Ventilator: 166	ICU: 274 Ventilator: 104

### 2. Situation of Monsoon Emergencies:

- Recent heavy raining (18-20 October 2021) has flooded and landslides in more than 18 district such as Doti, Dadeldhura, Kanchanpur, Bajhang, Baitadi, Darchula, Kailali, Kalikot, Humla, Bardiya, Sindhuli, Udaypur, Bhojpur, Dhankuta, Ilam, Jhapa, Sunsari and Panchthar.
- According to the NRCS preliminary information, 87 people were died, 33 are missing and 28 are injured. Similarly, 5,415 houses are affected, and 3,385 families have been displaced and 2022 households have been destroyed (fully: 576; partial: 1,446).

### 3. Progress made after 37th National Nutrition Cluster meeting

- 1,868 children under five years old with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have been admitted in the 817 Outpatient Therapeutic Centres (OTCs) and 22 Nutrition Rehabilitation Homes (NRH) across the country.
- Ongoing support for infant and young child feeding information dissemination and counselling services via telephone, radio, TV and other social media communication channels.
- Nutrition logistic procurement is in ongoing process
- Completed national annual review of nutrition programme.

- Completed revision of nutrition indicators in HMIS
- Conducted MTOT on CNSI to the federal and provincial participants
- Ongoing printing FCHV flip chart and will be distributed soon to the provinces as per the need.
- Ongoing printing 5 years action plan with costing of nutrition strategy and will be distributed soon to the provinces as per the need.
- 239,894 Households reached with radio messages on nutrition
- 265,520 Households reached with IYCF messages through SMS
- 184,023 Pregnant & lactating women reached with IYCF messages through SMS
- 62,623 Households reached counselled with telephone services
- 156,784 Pregnant and Lactating Women counselled via telephone
- 123 FM radio disseminating nutrition messages in all provinces
- 4,763 pregnant and Lactating Women counselled through home visits

#### **4. Issues and Challenges:**

- The use of essential nutrition services remains low
- Detection of Acute malnutrition remains low
- Procurement process is making complicated
- Recording and reporting
- Disaster management

#### **5. Way forward/Next steps:**

- Continue orientation of simplified treatment approach.
- Continue service monitoring of ongoing nutrition interventions.
- Ensure preposition of Nutrition commodities including Supercereal
- Continue OTC reviews in presence of nutrition section of FWD.
- BSFP to continue in the planned districts/locations with the support of WFP.