

40th NATIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER MEETING VIA ZOOM LINK**KATHMANDU, NEPAL****30th Poush, 2078 (14th January 2022)**

After COVID-19 onset, this the 40th meeting of National Nutrition Cluster jointly with Provincial Nutrition Clusters of 7 provinces. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MoHF 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
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair of the meeting, welcome to the participants: Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, Chief of Nutrition Section, National Nutrition Cluster-lead• Sharing of meeting agenda: Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF, and National Nutrition cluster co-lead.• Major updates of nutrition cluster: Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, Chief of Nutrition Section, National Nutrition Cluster lead• Updates from the provincial nutrition cluster lead (PHD Directors): – major briefs/key achievements, key issues, and way forwards/action points• Speech from the NPC• Updates from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups (IMAM, IYCF, BCC, Micro-nutrient, Information Management and Assessment TWG)• Remarks with the closing of the meeting: Chair of the meeting - Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, Chief of Nutrition Section, Nutrition Cluster lead

Major Decisions:

Decision 1: All provincial Health Directorates to send the action plan based on the outcomes of national nutrition review meeting for FY 2077/078.

Decision 2: The provincial health authorities such as Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), Ministry of Health and Population, Provincial Health Directorates (PHD), Provincial Health Training Center (PHTC) and Provincial Logistic Management Center (PLMC) are requested to provide technical assistance to local levels to accelerate the implementation process of nutrition specific and sensitive interventions as per the AWPB (FY 2078/079).

Decision 3: All Provincial Nutrition Clusters are requested to update/revise nutrition in emergency preparedness and response plan (monsoon)

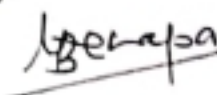
The next National Nutrition Cluster Meeting (40th Meeting) will be held on 28th Magh, 2078 (i.e., 11th February 2022) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM via zoom link.

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



Mr. Anirudra Sharma
Co-lead, National Nutrition Cluster
30th Poush, 2078 (14th January 2022)
From: United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Signed by the Chair of the Nutrition Cluster Meeting:



Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa
Lead, National Nutrition Cluster
30th Poush, 2078 (14th January 2022)
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. Lila Bikram Thapa, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DoHS/MoHP as well as Nutrition Cluster lead of Federal Level Nutrition Cluster chaired the session with co-chaired 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. Lil Bikram Thapa welcomed all the participants and Mr. Anirudra Sharma co-chair shared the meeting agenda.</p> <p>This is the 40th 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>
Agenda 2: Updates from National Nutrition cluster
<p>Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, 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:</p>
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 24th Mangsir, 2078 (10th December 2021). Following Directors/representatives presented the major highlights, achievements, issues, challenges, and way forward of their respective provinces as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Udesh Shrestha, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 1 • Mr. Vijay Jha, Director, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2 • Mr. Maheswor Shrestha, Director and Dr Narendra Jha, Provincial Health Directorate, Bagamati Province • Mr. Nani Babu Dani, Public Health Officer, Provincial Health Directorate, Gandaki Province • Ms. Meena Thapa, UNICEF on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate, Lumbini Province • Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate, Karnali Province • Mr. Lokendra Thapa from SUAAHARA on behalf of Provincial Health Directorate, Sudurpaschim Province <p>Action points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue nutrition service monitoring focusing for the treatment of under five years children with severe and moderate acute malnutrition by using simplified approach • Expand OTCs to make more accessible for the treatment of under five years children with severe ad moderate acute malnutrition • Continue implementation of CNSI training to health workers and FCHVs as per work plan and budget • Start to organize nutrition in emergency training at provincial level • Revise/update nutrition in emergency preparedness and response plan • In the remaining districts/OTCs, complete orientation of simplified approach for the treatment of 6-59 months children with moderate and severe acute malnutrition. • Review nutrition commodities including preposition of essential Nutrition commodities in all provincial warehouses • Strengthen and expansion of OTCs to all health facilities (minimum one OTCs in one health facilities in each palika). • Review the composition of nutrition technical committees and as decided before, organize at least one meeting of each TWG before nutrition cluster meeting

- Organize provincial nutrition cluster meeting monthly basis and review the overall achievements and way forward

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

No updates from Nutrition Cluster Technical Working Groups

Agenda 6: Closing of meeting

• Closing remarks from Laxmi Ghimire, Director, National Planning Commission:

- Ms. Ghimire thanked to all the stakeholders for the updates in the nutrition cluster meeting. Being as a staff of NPC, she flagged out 15th development plan and MSNP where there is clearly spelled out the establishment and scale up of NRH at least one in each district and OTC establishment at the health facilities to improve nutrition status of children. She also highlighted the review of the nutrition cluster meeting outcome and said that the meeting can be made more effective and result oriented. She also highlighted that NPC has asked to all concerned Ministries to submit the trends of the past 5 years budget and requested MoHP to allocate budget for NRH scale up at each district for next fiscal year. She also requested to link OCMC meeting with the cluster meeting based on MSNP framework. Further, she requested to share the Innovative ideas and lesson learnt in the cluster meeting in the field of nutrition. At last, she shows her concern regarding Baal-vita leakage and requested the respective authority to be serious and do analysis on it and shared the outcomes to everyone.
- 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 requested to revise/update emergency preparedness and response plan by all 7 provinces and requested to organize Nutrition in Emergency training in all provinces involving the district health teams of each province. He also requested to implement IMAM program using simplified approach for the treatment of 6-59 months children with severe and moderate acute malnutrition. He also requested to accelerate to implement nutrition specific interventions where CNSI training has already been rolled out. Finally, he expressed especial thanks to Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, the national nutrition cluster lead for his active cluster leadership on national nutrition programme and requested him to close the meeting with the announcement of new meeting date.
- Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, 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 who were attending in this meeting. Similarly, Mr. Thapa requested to all provincial participants to participate in the upcoming nutrition cluster meetings regularly. He also responded the different questions raised by the participants in the meeting and told that raised issues/questions such as review of the nutrition cluster meeting with action points, implementation of the IMAM program, IEC/BCC materials, recording and reporting reflected in DHIS/HMIS, budget allocation and expenditure will be more discussed with the nutrition section teams and relevant authorities and come with the action points and applied. He further requested to share innovative ideas and lesson learned by using this platform also. He also requested for suggestion, guidance, and support from all the technical working groups, stakeholders and participants on nutrition specific interventions to improve the nutrition status of adolescents, maternal, infant and young children. Mr Thapa 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. Thapa announced that the next nutrition cluster meeting (41 Meeting) will be held on **28th Magh, 2078 (i.e., 11th February 2022) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM via zoom link.**

Annex 1: List of Participants in the meeting:

1. Mr. Lila Bikram Thapa, Chief of Nutrition Section of FWD/DOHS/MoHP –Nutrition cluster lead
2. Mr. Anirudra Sharma, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF – Nutrition cluster co-lead
3. Mr. Mahshwor Shrestha, Director Provincial Health Directorate, Bagamati Province
4. Mr. Vijay Kumar Jha, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2
5. Mr. Udesha Shrestha, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 1
6. Mr. Nani Babu Dani, Public Health Officer, Provincial Health Directorate, Gandaki Province
7. Ms. Karan Courtney Haag, Chief of Nutrition Section, UNICEF
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. Niraj KC, Suaahara/USAID
13. Ms. Sumi Maskey, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
14. Ms. Bindu Panthi, Nutrition Officer, UNICEF
15. Mr. Deepak Thapa, NTAG
16. Mr. Harihar Sharma, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
17. Ms. Meena Gautam, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
18. Ms. Nisha Sharma, HKI
19. Ms. Kalpana Pandey, Nutrition Section, FWD/DoHS/MoHP
20. Dr. Salil Rana, FWD/HKI
21. Ms. Anju Adhikari, Nutrition section, FWD/UNICEF
22. Mr. Sher Singh Dahit, UNICEF/MOFA
23. Ms. Elina Sharma (NRH Okhaldhunga)
24. Ms. Rashmi Jha, NRH Rajbiraj
25. Mr. Amrit Gurung, WFP, Karnali Province
26. Mr. Sunil Khatiwada, SUSAHARA II /USAID
27. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma-USAID/Suaahara II
28. Mr. Debendra Adhikari, Nutrition Specialist, USAID
29. Mr. Sudip Chiluwal, Program Coordinator, NEPHEG
30. Mr. Raj Nandan Mandal, Nutrition Advisor, SUSAHARA II /USAID
31. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal, SUSAHARA II /USAID
32. Mr. KP Lamsal, Nutrition section, FWD/WFP
33. Mr. Rajendra Adhikari, Suaahara II/USAID, Surkhet
34. Mr. Bharat Sarma - Program Coordinator/Provincial Focal person Province-1, Suaahara II/USAID
35. Ms. Chitrakala Nepal, intern, FWD, Nutrition section
36. Mr. Suraj Kumar Sharma-USAID/Suaahara II
37. Ms. Gita Bista, NRH, Kailali
38. Ms. Sangita Khatri, Save the Children International
39. Mr. Subhash Gautam - Suaahara II, Province 1 coordinator
40. Mr. Purushottam Aryan, MSNP coordinator, Bagamati Province
41. Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal-program coordinator/provincial focal person, province-3, Suaahara II/USAID
42. Mr. Bhumiswar Sharma, Program Coordinator, Suaahara II/USAID
43. Mr. Deependra Chaudhari, Project Coordinator- Nutrition, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
44. Ms. Chhamkala Kafle program manager (Bharatpur NRH)

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

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

1. Status of COVID-19 as of 29 Poush, 2078 (13 January 2022)

Indicators	Global Situation		National Situation	
	8 December 2021	13 January 2022	8 December 2021	13 January 2022
Number COVID-19 positive cases	267,406,630 Increased by 25,042,285 (9.4%)	317,627,277 Increased by 50,220,647 (15.8%)	919,044 Increased by 18,560 (2%)	940,522 Increased by 21,478 (2.3%)
Number of deaths among the positive cases	5,286,829 (2%) Increased by 357,288 (7.2%)	5,531,118 (1.7%) Increased by 244,289 (4.4%)	11,547 (1.4%)	11,610 (1.4%) Increased by 63 (0.5%)
Number of Recovered	240,840,834 (90.1%)	262,893,376 (82.8%)	805,571 (97.8%)	815347 (96.9%)
Number of PCR tested	NA		Total tested: 5,537,485 (Antigen: 95,687)	Total tested: 5,841,582 (Antigen:873,796)
Active COVID-19 cases among the Positive cases	21,278,967 (7.9%)	49,202,783 (15.5%)	6,239 (0.68%)	14,340 (1.52%)
Number of people in Ventilation and ICU	NA		ICU: 128 Ventilator: 29	ICU: 110 Ventilator: 25

2. COVID-19 situation

- COVID-19 pandemic still affecting larger population of the country and smooth operation of health and nutrition programme still effectively not going.
- Since the Omicron variant was first reported to the [WHO in South Africa on 24 November](#), it has spread rapidly across the globe, causing as a 'tsunami of cases' that is overwhelming health systems globally.
- Nepal has also been severely affected by this new variant.
- On 25 Poush 2022, CCMC has decided several precautionary measures to be followed in Nepal.
- We need to be very cautious about mass gathering, to go to the crowded population, following the IPC measures and social distancing. For this we need to strictly follow the precautions what MoHP has issued.

3. Progress made after 39th National Nutrition Cluster meeting

- 2,147 (OTC: 1,938; NRH: 209) children under five years old with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have been admitted in the 863 Outpatient Therapeutic Centers (OTCs) and 22 Nutrition Rehabilitation Homes (NRH) across the country.
- Caregivers of 108,829 children below 23 months received IYCF counselling.
- 94.3% children (2,297,361 out of 2,437,022) 6-59 months aged received Vitamin A supplements national campaign conducted in in 6-7 November 2021.
- 88% children (1,905,618 out of 2,168,906) 12-59 months aged were deworm in national campaign conducted in in 6-7 November 2021.
- 67,763 children aged 6-23 months received MNP for home fortification of micro-nutrients with IYCF counselling.

- 17,110 children aged 6-23 months and 11,361 pregnant and lactating women received Supercereal in five Karnali districts.
- Ongoing procurement process of nutrition commodities by FWD and Management Division of DoHS/MoHP.
- 25,000 CNSI flipcharts for FCHVs are being printed and will be distributed soon as needed
- 15,000 CNSI training manual for health workers training are being printed.
- Ongoing CNSI training nationwide in different districts and just completed CNSI TOT in Taplejung district.
- Completed provincial nutrition reviews in P1, P2, Bagmati Province, Gandaki Province and Lumbini Province.
- Started family MUAC approach in 4 districts (Pachthar, Saptari, Kavre and Jumla) as pilot programme.
- 274,495 households reached with radio messages on nutrition.
- 205,302 households reached with IYCF messages through SMS.
- 191,941 Number of Pregnant & lactating women reached with IYCF messages through SMS.
- 39,385 Number of Households reached counselled with telephone services.
- 30,353 Number of Pregnant and Lactating Women counselled via telephone.
- 122 Number of FM radio disseminated nutrition messages.
- 10,187 Number of pregnant and Lactating Women counselled through home visits.
- 54,125 Children aged 9 months to 15 years who received single dose of measles vaccine.

4. Issues and Challenges:

- The use of essential nutrition services remains low
- Omicron (new variant) has been challenging to continue nutrition services
- Systematic community-based screening of children to detect for wasting remains constrained
- Record keeping and timely reporting
- Limited capacity for the management of nutrition in emergency preparedness and response
- Limited strategic roles of nutrition cluster technical working group

5. Way forward/Next steps:

- Focus to initiate to implement CNSI up to the FCHV levels as per the planning
- Started to pilot Family MUAC approach in 4 districts
- Nutrition in Emergency Training in all provinces and review and update nutrition in emergency preparedness and response plan
- Continue orientation of simplified treatment approach.
- Ensure preposition of essential Nutrition commodities in all provincial warehouses
- Strengthen and expansion of OTCs to all health facilities (minimum one OTCs in one health facilities in each palika).
- Incorporate revised nutrition indicators in HMIS and initiate MAM treatment reporting mechanism through the DHIS-2
- Initiate to form NUTEC at provincial level
- Review/update scope, membership, and continuation of nutrition cluster TWG