

Bangladesh Nutrition Cluster Monthly Meeting

Meeting minutes of Meeting 55

Date: 08 December 2020, 03:00 – 04:00 pm

Venue: Zoom Online

Rapporteur: Mohammad Mainul Hossain Rony

Agenda

1. Welcome introduction and review of last meeting action points.
2. Update from RCO lead Cyclone Amphan Response Lessons Learned
3. Cyclone Amphan response update
4. Monsoon Flood situation
5. Nutrition Cluster Rapid Nutrition Assessment
6. AOB
 - a. Emergency Nutrition supply status-IPHN
 - b. Nutrition in Emergency Capacity mapping

Action Points:

ACTION POINT	BY WHO	BY WHEN
Cyclone Amphan Lessons Learned exercise findings to be shared with the NC members	NCCT	By December
A contingency plan should be drafted for the assessment considering COVID	NCCT	By December
A communication plan on the assessment should be ready.	NCCT	By December
Guidelines, Questionnaire, concept note, methodology, IPC measures should be shared	NCCT	By December
NC to share all relevant documents with IPHN for clearance	NCCT	By December
Monsoon flood monitoring Dashboard will be shared	NCCT	By December
Members will report to NAWG 4W on flood response	Members	By December
Cyclone Amphan Lessons Learned exercise findings to be shared with the NC members.	NCCT	By December
NC will request for the last IPC data set and report which will support the upcoming analysis	NCCT	By December

1. Welcome introductions&Review of the action points from the previous meeting

Dr. S A Mustafizur Rahman, Line Director, NNS, IPHN, chaired the meeting. The meeting started with a round of introduction.

ACTION POINT	BY WHO	Progress
NCCT will share the draft child food package in emergency response for feedback	NCCT	Done
NC may circulate a guideline on what PPE is for whom with the support from LD NNS	NCCT	Done
NC may create an online archive data related to COVID including IEC materials	NCCT	In-process
NC will conduct a Rapid Nutrition Analysis after the NAWG report when required	NCCT	In-process
NC Response Package can be shared with cluster partners	NCCT	Done

- After discussing the previous meeting's action points, the meeting minutes of the 21 July 2020 was approved by all members.

2. Update from RCO lead Cyclone Amphan Response Lessons Learned

Mr. Kazi Shahidur Rahman from UNRCO has a briefed on recently conducted RCO lead Cyclone Amphan Response Lessons Learned.

Mr. Kazi has shared about objectives, lesson learned framework for Cyclone Amphan, field mission members key findings of this event, strengths and weaknesses according to SPEED approach and the recommendations with the NC members. He said that this was a joint mission asked by inter-cluster meeting and organized by UNRCO with the Cluster Working Group Coordinator and Localization Working Group. This exercise was done to do some discussions with the stakeholders and have a report to make the coordinated work plan.

- ▶ **Cyclone Amphan Lessons Learned exercise findings to be shared with the NC members.**

3. Cyclone Amphan response update

The NC CC requested to members to updates on Cyclone Amphan response.

Ms. Shahnaz Begum, NO from Khulna Field Office, UNICEF has shared that their Cyclone Amphan response project on nutrition has been ended on 16 November 2020.

The key points of the update are given below:

- 102,393 under-5 children have been screened in 16 upazillas of Khulna and Barisal divisions.
- 514 SAM children were treated in 30 different SAM facilities of targeted districts. Another 320 SAM children were remaining untreated as they exceed the limit of 500 SAM children for Amphan response project. But now BCO section of UNICEF has extended their support and soon these 320 SAM children will be covered under treatment.
- Three rounds counselling sessions were conducted for 16,064 caregivers of MAM children thereafter yielding them with the community clinics to have nutritional follow-up during this project.
- Therapeutic milk was provided twice and anthropometric measuring tools like MUAC tape was provided throughout the project span.

- As this was an emergency response, the time was too short and so arrangement of sufficient training for caregivers of MAM children and to educate them of healthy eating behaviour for the children was a big challenge.

Peter Agnew from FAO has shared that the Cash for Work program is ongoing in 12 different sites and soon will be wrapped-up. The project was participatory regarding beneficiary selection as they were selected by the communities. The project will be finished by the end of 2nd or 3rd week of December 2020. After that the internal evaluation will be done.

► **Cyclone Amphan monitoring Dashboard will be shared**

4. Monsoon Flood situation

The NC CC has requested to have some updates on Monsoon Flood response by member agencies.

Mr. S K Md. Shahidul Hassan from Rangpur Field Office, UNICEF has shared updates about their Monsoon Flood response project. He said that UNICEF has responded during Monsoon Flood in Sirajganj where 8000 under-5 children were screened and 100 SAM children were identified for treatment. Also 800 pregnant and lactating mothers were selected for IYCF counselling. He added that though it was a short project, the responses were done swiftly maintaining all the precautionary measures for COVID-19.

Jo Jacobsen from WFP has updated that – WFP has under the Amphan response provided multi-purpose cash along with nutrition messaging. WFP will follow up with their Resilience colleagues and share additional details on the cyclone response with the NC. Additional details provided after the meeting are – under the Amphan response WFP has supported 16,714 households in 8 upzilas under Satkhira, Khulna, Patuakhali and Barguna District. All household received a multipurpose cash grant of BDT 3,000 BDT with nutrition messages on general food and nutrition messages, Infant and Young Child Feeding practices and COVID safe food purchase and preparation. All messages were jointly selected in coordinated with UNICEF and FAO.

NC CC has shared the budgetary requirement for the HCTT Monsoon flood response plan. The total budget for the HCTT Monsoon flood response is over \$40 Million where over \$14 Million is for Food Security and Nutrition. He also said that Food Security and Nutrition is addressing the most vulnerable 7 districts out of total 15 priority districts for HCTT Monsoon flood response. These are Jamalpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Sirajganj, Shariatpur, Gaibandha and Sunamganj. He added that under HCTT Monsoon flood response plan there are three Life-saving Joint Projects (LSP) and three Early Recovery Projects (ERP) under Food Security and Nutrition section. NC CC has presented and described the projects and their objectives to the meeting participants.

- **Monsoon flood monitoring Dashboard will be shared**
- **Members will report to NAWG 4W on flood response**

5. Nutrition Cluster Rapid Nutrition Assessment

Nutrition Cluster Rapid Nutrition Assessment process is discussed among the cluster members. Nutrition Cluster co-lead, IPHN is expecting cluster to conduct a rapid nutrition assessment. An independent Food Security assessment is ongoing by the FAO & WFP. Considering this, a separate Rapid Nutrition Assessment

is proposed without any involvement of Food Security cluster. Nutrition Cluster is going to conduct a Rapid Nutrition Assessment led by the IPHN supported by the cluster members.

Summary of the presentation is as followed-

- For assessment, Monsoon Flood affected four districts (Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Sirajganj) and Cyclone Amphan affected two districts (Khulna, Satkhira) are selected.
- Several partners have shown their interest to participate in this assessment by providing data collectors. The members are:

District Name	Partner Agency
Kurigram	Care & Concern Worldwide (by December)
Gaibandha	Concern Worldwide
Jamalpur	Islamic Relief Bangladesh (by December)
Sirajganj	UNICEF
Khulna	Uttaran & Islamic Relief Bangladesh
Satkhira	Shushilan & UNICEF

- UNICEF is providing all the logistic support to maintain both the global and national IPC protocol for COVID-19 and those supplies are already in the field as a part of caution and rapid preparation.
- Screening will be done in 49 upazillas of six selected districts by December.
- The total caseload is 5,831 out of 1,178,424 under-5 children which mean 119 under-5 children per upazilla and 1 case from every 202 under-5 children.
- Sampling was done with simple random sampling technique where the calculation was done by taking wasting prevalence as p-value which is 8% as of BDHS 2017-18. The calculation also includes the z-value of 1.96 which corresponds to 95% confidence interval and 5% non-response rate.
- Data collectors training will be done remotely by this month and there will be flexibility in time for data collection due to different time frame of the projects of partner agencies.
- All data collectors will be from locality and use disposable PPE for every child.
- IPHN is providing all the support needed to maintain the IPC protocol and facilitating the assessment.

Concern Worldwide raised about provision of remuneration for the data collectors. The partner agencies have agreed to cover associated costs for data collectors as contribution of partner agencies. NC will still explore for some resources for data collectors.

WFP raised their concern about the justification of this assessment given the current risks. Bangladesh is in the second wave of COVID-19 the UNRC recently circulated guidance advising UN agencies not to conduct in person meeting and the GNC continue to recommends to suspend all primary data collection activities involving in-person contact, unless deemed essential after critically weighing harms and benefits. Thus at strong justification for undertaking a nutrition survey is required. WFP was also concerned about the lack of consultation with the NC partners on this assessment as there was lot of discussions on previous meeting regarding the safety issues for COVID-19, while it was proposed to be a joint assessment. WFP also highlighted that if this assessment moves forward then all IPC regulations should be maintained strictly.

Ms. Piyali has said that the GNC, on 8th October 2020, has developed an interim guidance on restoring population level data collection during COVID-19 under specific needs and considerations.

The assessment will be conducted by following the national IPC guideline. Recently the vitamin-A campaign was successfully done and GNC has published their guideline for conducting the SMART survey and this rapid assessment is not even a SMART survey but assuming to have a high impact according to the situation (Documents are available on GNC website). This assessment is a long-time requirement from IPHN, the government counter-part. One of the key task of the cluster mechanism is to complement the government and IPHN is looking for nutrition data. It is also evident from the RCO lead Cyclone Amphan Response Lessons Learned that there is lack of necessary data and vulnerability rankings, this rapid assessment will try to collect data for current and future program purpose as 5 year planning and OP revision process is ongoing.

Ms. Piyali Mustaphi from UNICEF said that recently the vitamin-A campaign was successfully completed with over 98% coverage across the country and with that experience the GoB is really keen to have the information on current nutritional situation. As the revision of NNS-OP is ongoing and will be completed by December 2020 or early January 2021, they are looking forward to have something as the assessment data. So, this is one of the big push for Nutrition Cluster from IPHN to move forward with the assessment. Also as the nation-wide vitamin-A campaign was successfully done with taking necessary IPC measures into account and this rapid assessment will be done in a much smaller scale with all the protective gears which are already in field since the last discussion, now it is important to move forward.

FAO has raised about the timing of the field work. He has a concern of whether the design of the physical work in the field is going to be safe enough as the risks have increased significantly from even one month ago and it is escalating both nationally and globally. He also wished that with the vaccination coming in the next year will reduce the risk a bit more. He proposed to assist our government partners to develop a risk management and contingency plan with clear protocols for how to deal with any incidence of sickness outbreak either among implementing survey workers or communities visited.

NC will focus on maintaining the IPC as Ms. Shahnaz has already shared the national level guidelines. He added that NC will address the guideline and will also take support from health facilities and IPHN. Under direct supervision of Line Director-NNS of GoB, NC will take all the necessary measures and learning from the proven experiences of conducting vitamin-A campaign, FGDs and individual interviews in RCO led Cyclone Amphan Lessons Learned exercise, screening of 102,393 under-5 children in the by UNICEF and review of Monsoon Flood responses by Sphere Community Bangladesh (SCB) and Start Network, which are all done recently by taking COVID-19 into account.

Ms. Piyali also thanked Peter and Jo for their concerns. In addition to that she informed that GoB led nation-wide MR campaign will be going on soon where UN agencies and number of partners is supporting them as it is necessary at this point of time. So, keeping everything in mind it is really very difficult to push-back and moving forward with maintaining all the necessary IPC measures is the way and get the screening done.

WFP also remarked that as the Nutrition Cluster has a responsibility to advise government regarding associated risks of the proposed assessment.

NC members agreed that all partners should have their contingency plan for if their staff get sick due to COVID-19.

Ms. Piyali has concluded the discussion saying that NC has taken the points, given alert of potential risk to the GoB and will support GoB to maintain IPC measures and contingency plan with the IPHN.

- ▶ **A contingency plan should be drafted for the assessment considering COVID**
- ▶ **A communication plan on the assessment should be ready.**
- ▶ **Guidelines, Questionnaire, concept note, methodology, IPC measures should be shared**
- ▶ **NC to share all relevant documents with IPHN for clearance**

6. AOB

a. Emergency Nutrition supply status:

Dr. Fatima, Program Manager from IPHN was present in the meeting and addressed with the cluster members.

Dr. Alamgir Murshidi from IPHN has shared that they have procured some micronutrients which will be used in routine as well as in emergency situation like COVID-19 affected areas.

According to the list, they have procured:

- 1,800,000 pieces of Calcium Carbonate with vitamin-D
- 7,200,000 sachets of micronutrient powder
- 1,000,000 pieces of dispersible Zinc tablets
- 3,000,000 pieces of Calcium Carbonate tablet
- 200,000,000 pieces of Iron and Folic Acid tablets

They are also going to procure 500,000 masks for next vitamin-A plus campaign.

Ms. Asfia from UNICEF has complemented with Dr. Murshidi regarding F-75 and F-100. She said that UNICEF has already procured the emergency supply of F-75. As GoB has enough supply of F-100, UNICEF will not be going to procure it. UNICEF is also going to procure MUAC tape only for children which will be used in emergency situations. She added that there is enough MUAC tape for adult in the CMSD store and she wanted to let the NC members know that if anyone requires MUAC tape for use, they can do contact freely with UNICEF.

b. IPC Update:

Peter from FAO has given the update. Keeping IPC Coordinator in place and looking out to plan for 2021 to get more integrated with Food Security Cluster. There may be a presentation in the next meeting with some ideas on how to manage the IPC in 2021. He added that discussion is ongoing for the publication of last IPC report and the update will be shared in future.

- ▶ **NC will request for the last IPC data set and report which will support the upcoming analysis.**

By thanking everyone, NC CC has concluded the meeting.

Participant List

Sl. No.	Name of the participant	Organization
1	Dr. S A Mustafizur Rahman	Line Director, NNS, IPHN
2	Piyali Mustaphi	UNICEF
3	Golam Mohiuddin Khan	UNICEF
4	Jo Jacobsen	Nutrition Advisor, WFP
5	Kazi Shahidur Rahman	UNRCO
6	Peter Agnew	FAO
7	Asfia Azim	UNICEF
8	Mohammad Mainul Hossain Rony	NC Coordinator
9	Dr. Md. Ikram Hossain Bhuiyan	NC Volunteer
10	Tatsuji Shinohara	
11	SK Md. Shahidul Hassan	UNICEF
12	Shahnaz Begum	UNICEF
13	Md. Iqbal Hossain	Concern Worldwide
14	Dr. Fatima Akhter	Program Manager, IPHN
15	Dr. Alamgir Murshidi	IPHN
16	Md. Sameul Nawaz	WFP
17	Obaidur	ACF
18	Jogie	ACF
19	Shahida Akter	UNFPA