# COVID-19 contingency planning for NIE sector meeting 24th Tuesday

Skype meeting (11:00 AM-12:30PM)

# Meeting minutes

**Chair**: UNICEF on behalf of nutrition sector

## Agenda

1. Guidance notes discussions
2. Updates on how nutrition programs are being affected by the COVID-19 outbreak
3. Contingency planning – scaling up risk communication and life-saving nutrition services
4. Preparedness for worst case scenario ( or the acute phase)
5. Preparedness for future impact on nutrition status
6. AOB

**Coordination Mechanism**

* Coordination with NNC and development partner - Ko Soe Nyi Nyi (UN-REACH) and Ko Pyae (UNICEF) will coordinate with NNC (more on the impact of COVID-19 on general nutrition programme for development and proposed response)
* UNICEF will continue supporting the NIE coordination and technical assistant as a sector lead with the SAG members on the COVID-19 response with partners.
* Technical guidance and support will be harmonised between the two coordination mechanisms as well as aligned with WHO and government of Myanmar guidance and updates will be reported in both forums accordingly.
* The NIE SAG group will meet weekly at the beginning and increase or decrease frequency as needed with emphasis on technical guidance as the situation changes to guide strategic, and harmonised planning and response.

**Guidance note**

* The first guidance note was shared with the SAG members on 23th March.
* However, a revised version of the note will be required as the situation has changed with Myanmar confirming their first two cases.
* Fumito and Elin will discuss further and work to include more information and to update the note. Final version will be shared with nutrition sector partners for use.
* Ko Soe Nyi will consult with one or two colleagues from the core team to support Elin and Fumito for reviewing the note for contextualization.
* The guidance note will also include the plans and modalities of risk reduction communication that has been developed and translated by HLPU with support from UNICEF - nutrition service points should also be touch points for risk reduction communication. However, partners should use existing materials and not develop new ones.
* The guidance note will also be shared with the global nutrition cluster for further guidance.
* As the situation is evolving, using the media and public address system should be the most preferred channel of communication as movement and social events are being discouraged.
* UNICEF will check with its C4D focal for development and distribution of materials as well as for information sharing through media platforms. UNICEF works with HLPU for distribution of materials through government channels.

**Updates on Nutrition Program affected by COVID-19 and Contingency Plan**

* Mass gathering is restricted, there is need to understand the impact on rural health clinic and sub rural health clinics
* Several international staff are leaving the country and provision of field level technical support might be affected.
* Some partners are scaling down the activities, maintaining only life saving treatment programmes like IMAM and minimal nutrition preventive activities- IYCF, BSFP and Micronutrient supplementations etc. risk reduction measures when providing these services will be included in the guidance note.
* SCI is compiling the impacts of COVID-19 on Nutrition from its field offices and will share the contingency plan.
* Partners need to discuss what are the minimal life saving activities and should be included in the guidance note.
* ACF is planning on suspending all community activities but continues OTPand SFP services with a limited number of staff and putting preventive and risk reduction measures- handwashing activities, crowd control to limit the mass gathering. BSFP monthly distribution will continue but SFP will be reduced from every two weeks to monthly.
* Stocks (Ready to Use Therapeutic Food- RUTF) received from UNICEF was sent to Rakhine (STW-2 months and NRS-2,3 months minimal consumption)
* Nutrition to be a part of Rakhine COVID-19 taskforce. as the taskforce is working on contingency plans and any contingency plans by the nutrition sector will require coordination with CCCM, WASH, Health for example if a convoy is needed to the camp once a week incase we are under lockdown will need coordination with CCM.
* LIFT is requesting partners to adapt and request for re programme budgets for COVID-19 response if need be. CRS and SCI are the partners in Chin.
* UNICEF will check 4W and will coordinate and inform the members on nutrition partners in CHIN.
* Maintain micronutrient supplementation as primary response; nutrition preventive activity to improve immune system.
* Working with partners in Rakhine, Kachin, Shan (North), Chin, Kayin, and Yangon to plan for risk reduction and maintain critical lifesaving and prevention nutrition services
* Each focal agency should work with partners for specific regions and provide technical guidance by using the guidance note and coordinate. The focals will also discuss with partners suitable dates for Skype call to provide context specific guidance for their nutrition work from the states/regions. Updates will be shared weekly in the NIE SAG meetings. The plan for coordination is as below.

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| **Location** | **Focal organization** | **Remark** |
| Chin | SCI and ACCESS | TBC-(KMSS and CRS also working in Chin) |
| Rakhine | ACF and UNICEF |  |
| Yangon | SCI and WFP |  |
| Kachin | WHO and LIFT |  |
| Kayin and Shan (N) | SCI | SCI will check and confirm |
|  | UNICEF | as a overall sector coordinator |

**Contingency Plan and Preparedness**

* A consolidated contingency plan for the Nutrition Sector is required.
* Follow with partners for their contingency plan and UNICEF will compile and develop a sector collective contingency plan.
* Sectors coordination and meetings with UNOCHA are being coordinated through ICCG. Nutrition could also arrange coordination with OCHA as needed.
* Beyond the contingency plan, a plan for preparedness in the worst case scenario especially if there is a lockdown. Otherwise, it could be an extension of the contingency plan.
* The UNICEF regional nutrition team is organizing a call on Friday (27th Mar) and updates on better guidance on preparedness plans could be shared by UNICEF after the call. UNICEF can reach out to the China office for learning experiences and guidance.
* UNICEF will draft and share with partners. If any other partners receive global and regional guidance such as WFP, SCI, and ACF can share with UNICEF for compilation for collective response.

**Next Meeting**

* Next meeting on Monday afternoon 30 March 2020. UNICEF to send invites.
* It is suggested to use **google meet** as it would be more convenient for partners.

**Action Points**

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| **Action** | **Responsible** | **Timeline** |
| * Coordination with NNC and development partners * Coordination with humanitarian partners | * UN-REACH (Ko Soe Nyi) * UNICEF (Ko Pyae) * UNICEF (Jecinter) | Continuous |
| * Updating of guidance note | * UNICEF (Elin) and WFP (Fumito) (UN-REACH for contextualization and support in translation) | 25/3 |
| * UNICEF will check C4D focal for development and distribution of materials as well as for information sharing through media platforms. | * UNICEF |  |
| * Focals for the States and Region to find out time to call in partners for further guidance | * UNICEF will follow with each focal | 25th March |
| * SCI is compiling the impacts of COVID-19 on Nutrition from its field offices and will share the contingency plan. | * SCI |  |
| * Follow up with partners to share their impact of COVID on nutrition activities | * UNICEF |  |
| * Update and revise 4W and circulate to SAG members partners for Chin, Rakhine, Kachin, Northen Shan and Kayin | * UNICEF (Win Lae) |  |
| * A draft consolidated contingency plan for the Nutrition Sector | * UNICEF |  |
| * Beyond contingency start preparing a preparedness plan for direct and indirect socio economic impact of COVID on nutrition | * UNICEF in coordination with SAG members |  |

**Meeting Participants**

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