# Nutrition in Emergency (NiE) SAG meeting, Myanmar

***Zoom meeting, 17th September 2020, 10:00-11:30AM***

# Meeting minutes

**Chair**: NNC

**Cochair**: UNICEF

**Agenda**

1.           Welcome remark – Dr Lwin Mar Hlaing

2.           Brief update of the impact of COVID-19 on nutrition response

3.           Proposed plans for maintaining live saving nutrition services in Rakhine during COVID-19-Response

(a) H & N Mobile team- NNC/UNICEF/partners,

(b) Prepositioning of nutrition supplies RUTF-RUSF: UNICEF/WFP

4.           Violation of BMS Codex Alimentarius

5.           Preparation for scale up of IMAM in other priority areas

6.           AOB

7.          Closing

**1.**       **Welcome remark**

-        Dr.Lwin Mar Hlaing from NNC opened the meeting by welcoming and giving appreciation to nutrition partners for their support and contributions to nutrition COVID-19 response.

**2.**       **Brief updates of the impact of COVID-19 on nutrition response**

-        UNICEF shared that all 17 Rakhine townships are in a stay home period and 2 UN and 15 NGO partner staff are being infected with COVID-19. Nutrition activities have been suspended due to COVID-19 and Rakhine SHD is coordinating with authorities and partners for continuation of essential nutrition services. Mobile teams are running to provide essential health and WASH services and negotiations for integration of essential nutrition such as nutrition screening and treatment for acute malnutrition cases are ongoing. Nutrition partners have been distributing monthly RUTF requirements to SAM children. One of the challenges is transportation of supplies (RUTFs) from Sittwe and other townships due to lock down and movement restrictions.

-        WFP informed that WFP and its partners did not have TA access for nutrition activities in August and September. Hence there has been no admissions in SFP programs since August. Some of the WFP food commodities have expired dates in September and if distributions cannot be performed with granted TA, the supplies will expire in due time.

-        It was shared that there were two MSN-PAN high level meetings on the 17th August. The first meeting was to orient the MSN-PAN program and activities in the context COVID-19 to the minister. The second meeting was an MSN-PAN update session with related departments (i.e, MOHS, Agriculture, Woman and children right department, etc).  It has been planning to start implementation in the targeted states and regions; Shan, Ayeyarwaddy, Chin, Kayar and Kayin. and Rakhine and Kachin would be followed later. However, the plans have been postponed due to the COVID-19 situation.

-        In Kachin, in coordination with SHD and NST, partners are working for nutrition messages distribution and tabletop exercise for nutrition COVID- 19 response. In Kayin, community Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling services are continuous in two quarantine centres in Hpa-An townships.

**3.**       **Proposed plans for maintaining live saving nutrition services in Rakhine during COVID-19-Response**

***a.***      ***H & N Mobile team- NNC/UNICEF/partners***

-        Following on delivering an orientation session on COVID-19 nutrition guidance notes to Rakhine partners, there has been a development of an alternative plan for delivering essential nutrition services in Rakhine townships. The plan has been developed in coordination with the State Health Department and State Nutrition Team (SNT).  (Please find the details in the attached work plan).

-        A hot line IYCF counselling has recently been introduced by Rakhine nutrition partners in respective implementing areas.

-        NNC appreciated the initiatives and encouraged partners to maintain coordination with SNT.

***b.***      ***Prepositioning of nutrition supplies RUTF-RUSF: UNICEF/WFP***

-        UNICEF has prepositioned 600 cartons of RUTF at Sittwe ACF warehouse. RUTF distributions (for monthly consumption) were done to all SAM cases and coordination with local partners, volunteers and health staff is ongoing for preparation and distributions in October.

-        WFP is coordinating with its Supply unit and Rakhine field colleagues for preparation of SFP program and other preposition supplies for estimated requirements till December 2020. WFP shared that there would be a challenge for transportation and relocation of the prepositioned supplies which have close expired dates to other States and Regions if the TA is not being able to be granted in Rakhine.

-        Given that WFP does not yet have the LOA with MOHS to be able to make distributions of supplies to health facilities, it is suggested to prepare and submit a LOA request letter to MOHS. WFP will follow up for this with donors and MOHS accordingly.

**4.**       **Violation of BMS Codex Alimentarius**

-        It was shared that recently there was an update from the Regional regarding the violation of BMS in Cambodia. It was reported that six batches of one of BMS companies’(Nutrilatt) products were found with very low iron and zinc contents. In Myanmar, NNC, FDA, WHO and UNICEF have also been coordinating for the BMS control.

-        It was discussed that regular quality testing and monitoring of labelling need to be done to also other brands in markets. Moreover, advocacies for control measures and actions on violations are to be performed and to be sensitive for mentioning brands as it could promote them in other ways.

-        NNC shared that in principle, all products are tested and certified by FDA. NNC could also be able to perform the quality testing of minerals at its laboratory next month. If needed, UNICEF would provide necessary support for the international testing in coordination with the regional office.

-        It was proposed to have a BMS coordination meeting with the technical working group (TWG) in the third week of October 2020. NNC will follow up with the DG for the meeting and UNICEF will facilitate and coordinate with NNC for drafting the meeting agenda and preparation.

**5.**       **Preparation for scale up of IMAM in other priority areas**

-        It was shared that as per discussion at the IMAM review meeting, one of the concern challenges is limited supplies, especially RUSF for the SPF program. There is a plan of developing a joint proposal by WFP and UNICEF for supporting RUSF and RUTF for the IMAM roll out in 2021.

-        NNC discussed that it is needed to have sustainable and adequate supplies for continuation of the current IMAM roll out areas but also to expand remaining states and regions. Generally, MAM prevalence is higher than SAM and it is more in need of RUSF. A2H would support some RUSF to the States.

-         WFP shared that currently WFP is supporting SFP programs in some townships in Rakhine and Yangon. WFP is developing LOA with MOSH, NNC for expansion of support in 2021. But also, WFP would consider increasing SFP program coverage based on new partner requests in 2021. WPF is supporting a total 80 MT of RUSF for Magway (20MT), Rakhine and Yangon (60MT for Rakhine and Yangon) MOHS IMAM roll out.

-        In order to coordinate and prepare for the 2021 supply plan, a meeting with NNC, A2H, WFP and UNICEF was proposed to be held in October 2020 (Date to be confirmed).

**6.**       **AOB** – Nil

**7.**       **Closing**

– Dr.Lwin Mar, NNC thanked the participants for their attendances and discussions. The meeting was closed at 11:00 AM.

***Action Points***

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| **No** | **Action** | **Responsible by** |
| 1 | WFP is coordinating with its Supply unit and Rakhine field colleagues for preparation of SFP program and other preposition supplies for estimated requirement till December 2020 | WFP |
| 2 | WFP will develop a LOA with MOHS to be able to make distributions of supplies (RUSF) to health facilities, WFP follow up for this with donors and MOHS accordingly. | WFP |
| 3 | It was proposed to have a BMS coordination meeting with the technical working group (TWG) in the third week of October 2020. NNC will follow up with the DG for the meeting and UNICEF will facilitate and coordinate with NNC for drafting the meeting agenda and preparation. | NNC and UNICEF |
| 4 | It was proposed to have a BMS coordination meeting with the technical working group (TWG) in the third week of October 2020. NNC will follow up with the DG for the meeting and UNICEF will facilitate and coordinate with NNC for drafting the meeting agenda and preparation | NNC and UNICEF |
| 5 | In order to coordinate and prepare for the 2021 supply plan, a meeting with NNC, A2H, WFP and UNICEF was proposed to be held in October 2020 (Date to be confirmed). | NNC and partners |

**Participants**

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