# Nutrition in Emergency (NiE) SAG meeting, Myanmar

***Zoom meeting, 31st August 2020, 2:30-3:30PM***

# Meeting minutes

**Chair**: NNC

**Cochair**: UNICEF

Agenda

1. Welcome remark – NNC
2. Brief update of the impact of COVID-19 on partners nutrition response – UNICEF
3. Proposed plans for maintaining live saving nutrition services in Rakhine during COVID-19-Response
	* 1. Guideline adaptation and reorientation of partners
		2. Prepositioning of supplies
		3. Adapted IYCF counseling card
		4. Hotline for continuation of IYCF counseling to mothers in critical need of support
		5. Regular monitoring and mapping based on the agreed plan
4. AOB
5. Way forward and closing - NNC
	* + 1. ***Welcome remark – NNC***

Dr.Lwin Mar, NNC opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. NNC and 16 SAG members from different agencies attended the meeting (please find the attached attendant sheet). The following points were delivered in the speech.

1. Proposed plan for life-saving activities in Rakhine - cIYCF in emergency and the nutrition guidance note are to be applied as the standard guidance for implementing nutrition activities in the context of COVID-19.
2. NNC welcomes partners’ support and coordination for promoting infant and young child feeding practices and to prevent malnutrition in COVID response.
	* + 1. ***Brief update of the impact of COVID-19 on partners nutrition response – UNICEF***
* UNICEF shared that some nutrition partners in Rakhine have been infected. UNICEF recently supported Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and prepositioned essential supplies to Rakhine.
* Due to the current situation in Rakhine, there are concerns for disruption of essential nutrition services, travel authorization limitation and supply chain management (as some humanitarian nutrition supplies are in lock down areas).
* In coordination with NNC, the SAG could support with providing orientation sessions and updating of the guidance note to partners.
* WFP and WHO shared experience of TA application in Rakhine. The Rakhine local government grants the monthly TA applications for life-saving and humanitarian activities. WFP has been granted a TA for September 2020 food distribution but not for nutrition activities. Preposition of basic supplies; food, nutrition and WASH items would be in need and to be coordinated among sectors.
* UNICEF shared that based on discussions between the government and UNOCHA, humanitarian activities including life-saving and critical activities are to be consented and continued discussion and advocacy for defining life-saving activities are happening. For nutrition, Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) services are to be considered as life-saving services.
* NNC shared that a face to face cIYCF training for newly recruited staff was initially planned to be held in Nay Pyi Taw this week. However, due to the COVID-19 situation, it is being performed as a virtual training and all state/region nutrition teams are participating in the session.
	+ - 1. ***Proposed plans for maintaining live saving nutrition services in Rakhine during COVID-19-Response***
1. ***Guideline adaptation and re orientation of partners***
* In coordination with NNC, orientation of the current guideline to partners is proposed to be done this week (31st Aug- 4th Sep). The IMAM program (for life saving activities) portion will be emphasized in the guidance orientation session. There is Rakhine participant information from the April nutrition training for the session.
* According to the guideline, monthly RUTF distribution (3 sachets per day) is to be done by community volunteers. It was discussed that in full community movement restriction, supplies could be distributed through civil based organizations (CBOs). Also, when cIYCF counselling cannot be performed in community, hotline counselling would be an option.
* MUAC screening by mothers is to be done according to the guideline in full movement restriction. Monitoring of breast milk substitute (BMS) donation and code violation are also important in the COVID situation.
* Program activities are to be implemented according to the guideline in order to have a harmonized approach and standard implementation.
* Given the COVID-19 situation in Rakhine and TA allowance for only food distribution and life-saving services, it was suggested an option for distribution of nutrition supplies to camp beneficiaries through local volunteers in order also to avoid unnecessary contacts. NNC would discuss the suggestion with the State Health Department.
1. ***Prepositioning of supplies***
* UNICEF has prepositioned some essential nutrition supplies; 600 cartons of RUTF, therapeutic milk, Rehydration Solution for Malnutrition, Amoxicillin and MUAC tapes in Sittwe. The prepositioned 600 RUTFs are estimated to cover about 3 months of the regular monthly partners’ SAM admission in HRP targeted 9 townships which cover not only IDPs but also other populations. UNICEF is procuring more MUAC tapes to address the Rakhine needs based on the nutrition guidance note.
* WFP shared that most of their nutrition stocks are in Yangon. WFP will coordinate with UNICEF and Sittwe colleagues for sending some preposition supplies; RUSF to Rakhine.
1. ***Adapted IYCF counseling card***
* UNICEF has submitted the revised IYCF counselling card version to NNC. NNC will review it and respond with feedback at their earliest convenience.
1. ***Hotline for continuation of IYCF counseling to mothers in critical need of support***
* The draft concept note for hotline IYCF counselling has been shared to NNC for the review. An approval request with the concept note will be submitted to the Ministry.
1. ***Regular monitoring and mapping based on the agreed plan***
* It was shared that Rakhine UNICEF partners are practicing a pilot online data collection using ODK platform.
* Community volunteers could also report program activities and photos by using social applications.
	+ - 1. **AOB**
* It was informed that WFP is now in the process of discussion with counterparts for provision of food to quarantine centers and fortified blended food to children and pregnant and lactating women.
	+ - 1. **Closing**
* Dr.Lwin Mar, NNC thanked the participants for their attendances and discussions. The meeting was closed at 3:30 PM.

***Action Points***

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| **No** | **Action** | **Responsible by** |
| 1 | WFP will coordinate with Sittwe colleagues and UNICEF for sending some preposition supplies; RUSF to Rakhine. | WFP in coordination with Sittwe field colleagues |
| 2 | Guideline orientation session to partners | NNC and UNICEF |
| 3 | Option for distribution of nutrition supplies to camp beneficiaries through local volunteers in order also to avoid unnecessary contacts. NNC would discuss the suggestion with the State Health Department. | NNC |
| 4 | NNC will review the revised IYCF counselling version and response at their earliest convenience.  | NNC |
| 5 | The draft concept note for hotline IYCF counselling has been shared to NNC for the review. An approval request with the concept note will be submitted to the Ministry. | NNC, UNICEF |

**Participants**

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