

Nutrition in Earthquake Emergency Management in Nepal

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The devastating earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale struck Nepal on April 25, 2015 followed by 7.3 on the Richter scale on 12 May 2016 affecting 31 districts out of 75 districts of Nepal where about 9 million people in the country were affected. About nine thousands people died, twenty three thousands were injured and millions rendered homeless where more than 800,000 houses were damaged either partially or fully. Among those affected population 534,756, are the under five year children.

Immediate after earthquake, Nepal Nutrition cluster, led by Ministry of Health (MoH) and co-led by UNICEF Nepal, initiated cluster coordination mechanism to address the issues of nutrition in emergency in the severely affected 14-priority districts. Based on the secondary data of global acute malnutrition of the affected districts and estimated affected population, MoH jointly with UNICEF and other nutrition cluster members estimated numbers of population of the most vulnerable group like under five children, pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and decided to implement the following key interventions considering five nutrition building blocks:

- i. Promotion, protection and support for breast feeding;
- ii. Promotion of ontime and appropriate complementary feeding;
- iii. Prevention and management of moderate acute malnutrition through Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP)'
- iv. Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) through Therapeutic Feeding Programme (TFP); and
- v. Micro-Nutrient for children and women (vitamin-A and MNP for children age 6-59 months, deworming to children 12-59 months and IFA for pregnant and post-natal mothers)

In order to implement abovementioned five building blocks, total 20,000 people were capacitated and have been mobilized to address nutrition in emergency issues in 14-priority districts including 4,000 health workers (HWs), 10,000 female Community Health Workers (FCHVs), 1,000 civil society organization (CSO) members and 5,000 members of ward citizen forums (WCF) and citizen awareness centers (CAC). Based on the interventions, the following is the result of nutrition in emergency interventions in earthquake affected 14-priority districts:

Coverage Indicators	Total Target Population	# of Beneficiaries Reached	Achievement %
Breastfeeding Counseling (0-23 months)	225,708	149,550	66%
Complementary Feeding (6-23 months)	167,757	145,164	87%
Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) (6-59 mo) through therapeutic feeding	4,850	4,755	98.04%
Management of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) (6-59 months) through Targeted Supplementary feeding	23,250	28,102	120.87%
Management of Acute Malnutrition (PLW) through Targeted Supplementary Feeding	21,750	20,080	92.32%
Blanket Supplementary Feeding 6-23 months children during the response phase	46,484	26,160	56%
Multiple Micro-Nutrient Powder (MNP) to 6-59 months children	476,652	438,718	92.04%
Vitamin A to 6-59 months children	476,652	438,718	92.04%
Deworming to 12-59 months children	418,544	367,746	82.17%
IFA for pregnant and postnatal mothers	252,043	173,998	69%
Distribution of Hygiene Kits to Golden 1000 days families	77,280	80,013	104%
Distribution Cookery Kits to Golden 1000 Days families	77,280	74,155	95.96%

In order to achieve the results, MoH jointly with UNICEF and other nutrition cluster partners launched child nutrition week (CNW) in 28 June to 4 July 2015 and subsequent nutrition week in all 14 districts in each 6 months integrating with bi-annual national Vitamin A programme.

The poster session highlights the timeline of the program and emphasizes lessons learned that can be used for similar contexts (countries similar to Nepal that have not lots of emergency experienced where promotion, prevention and management of malnutrition need to do at same time and also not experienced a high rate of acute malnutrition but are also not equipped to treat malnutrition in case of a nutritional emergency).