

16 October 2011

# Nutrition Technical Committee

Terms of Reference

Nutrition Section, Child Health Division

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## List of Abbreviations

<b>AusAID</b>	Australian Agency for International Development
<b>BMI</b>	Body Mass Index
<b>CHD</b>	Child Health Division
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development
<b>DFTQC</b>	Department of Food Technology and Quality Control
<b>DoHS</b>	Department of Health Services
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GoN</b>	Government of Nepal
<b>HKI</b>	Helen Keller International
<b>INGO</b>	International Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>IoM</b>	Institute of Medicine
<b>JICA</b>	Japan International Cooperation Agency
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goal
<b>MI</b>	Micronutrient Initiative
<b>MoAC</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
<b>MoF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MoHP</b>	Ministry of Health and Population
<b>NDHS</b>	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
<b>NESOG</b>	Nepal Society for Obstetrician and Gynaecologists
<b>NFHP</b>	Nepal Family Health Programme
<b>NFSTA</b>	
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>NMA</b>	Nepal Medical Association
<b>NNA</b>	Nepal Nutrition Association
<b>NTAG</b>	Nepal Technical Assistance Group
<b>NUTEC</b>	Nutrition Technical Committee
<b>NYF</b>	Nepal Youth Foundation
<b>PAHS</b>	Patan Academy of Health Sciences
<b>PHAN</b>	Public Health Association of Nepal
<b>PPICD</b>	Policy, Planning and International Cooperation Division
<b>SCF</b>	Save the Children Fund
<b>SOPHYN</b>	Society of Public Health Physician of Nepal
<b>TWG</b>	Technical Working Group
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>WVI</b>	World Vision International

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# NUTRITION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

## 1. Introduction

Under-nutrition has been a long standing public health problem in Nepal. Forty-nine per cent of Nepali children have been suffering from chronic forms of malnutrition, i.e., stunting and about one fourth of Nepal women has low BMI (<18.5). In Nepal, 39 per cent of children are underweight, 13 percent are wasted and 42 percent are anaemic (NDHS 2006).

Malnutrition during pregnancy increases the risk of complications and maternal death as well as the likelihood of low birth weight. Similarly, under-nutrition among children impacts on health, education and work productivity, and is a major impediment to the economic growth and development of the country. Malnutrition is detrimental for overall physical growth and mental and cognitive development in children. Despite many progress, particularly in controlling micronutrients deficiency disorders made on nutrition over the past decade in Nepal, malnutrition still remains a serious challenge for public health program. The prevalence of malnutrition varies widely across regions and socio-economic groups.

In view of the situation of nutrition in Nepal, a multiplicity of problems and challenges remain. Out of them, some problems and challenges are following:

- Inadequate of tangible support for nutrition interventions and insufficient prioritization of nutrition issues at national as well as local levels.
- Poor coverage of many essential nutrition interventions, including the prevention and control of anaemia among children, and management of severe acute malnutrition, addressing the issues of wasting and addressing the issues of adolescents and maternal malnutrition. Poor coverage is the result of weaknesses in the demand and provision of services.
- The available opportunities to integrate nutrition interventions into all possible contacts with service providers are missed, which limits coverage and impact. There are also inadequate linkages between programs and projects in different sectors, divisions that could provide synergistic services to address the issues of malnutrition.
- Key decisions about priorities and resource allocations for nutrition are made at the local government level, where the understanding on nutrition and how to deal with nutrition problems is limited. Very few nutrition professionals exist to provide high quality technical advice to local government authority efforts to address malnutrition.
- Limited financial resources are made available for nutrition interventions in Nepal. However, all like-minded actors are trying to provide specific attention on addressing nutrition issues. Still there is low understanding of the severity of the problem, and the concrete actions that can be taken to address it.
- In Nepal, effective nutrition architecture under health system and at different levels need to be established with well-defined terms of reference and enhanced capacity. Further, monitoring of nutrition status through the systems and the coverage of nutrition interventions at national and sub-national levels should be strengthened.

Different studies and researches have shown that unless nutrition interventions are implemented at a large scale, and with the necessary resources and institutional structures for sustainability, they will not be able to significantly affect national rates of malnutrition. Without a major national effort to address the issues outlined above, it is highly unlikely that Nepal will meet the MDG goals for maternal and child nutrition, health or poverty reduction. In line with the MDG targets and goals set by the Government of Nepal (GoN), a National Nutrition Strategy has been developed in 2004 and edited in 2007/08 to guide actions to improve nutrition in the country. Within this strategy, responsibilities for implementing actions to improve nutrition fall under multiple sectors, but mainly within the health, education, agriculture and livestock sectors.

In recognition of the need for concerted efforts to address under-nutrition within health sector a Nutrition Technical Committee within DoHS/MoHP has been formed to facilitate policy and technical dialogue across all relevant sectors, international donors, partners and technical experts on nutrition in Nepal. The Nutrition Technical Committee constitutes a group of technical experts and agencies involved in the area of nutrition in Nepal. The group includes Ministry of Health and Population, Department of Health Services (DoHS), UN agencies, multi-lateral and bilateral agencies, international NGOs, academic institutions and national nutrition experts and invitee members as per their expertise.

## **2. Objective of the NUTEC**

The overall aim of the NUTEC is “to provide advisory support and guidance on nutrition to key sectors, and to monitor performance with respect to nutrition against the goals, objectives, activities/interventions and targets in sector strategies and policies”.

## **3. Roles and Functions**

The roles and functions of NUTEC are as follows:

- Provide technical and public health managerial advice and support to key sectors, including health agriculture and livestock, on the design of national and sectoral policies, strategies, plans and activities to ensure that nutrition concerns are adequately addressed.
- Supervise the implementation of national and sectoral policies, strategies, plans and activities, with special attention to scaling up nutrition interventions and addressing gaps in service delivery.
- Advocate on behalf of nutrition with appropriate governmental line ministries and partners to increase awareness, understanding and prioritization of nutrition issues, to substantiate investment for specific nutrition interventions and ensure that nutrition concerns are kept high on the political agenda.
- Mobilize increased funding support for nutrition in Nepal by leveraging resources from sector MoF allocations, district budgets, development partners, international funding agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders.
- Facilitate sharing of information on nutrition, both within and between sectors, including data on nutrition, best practices, lessons learned, and research findings to; (i) keep stakeholders abreast of new research findings and their

implications, (ii) determine how best to improve integration, convergence and effectiveness of nutrition interventions; (iii) identify system bottlenecks in need of redress and determine appropriate solutions; (iv) ensure rationalization and best use of financial and human resources.

- Identify knowledge gaps and research priorities to inform the design of more effective nutrition interventions.
- Facilitate the strengthening of monitoring on nutrition to ensure that nutrition indicators are integrated into national and sectoral monitoring, evaluation, and reporting frameworks and systems.
- Strengthen multi-sectoral coordination and promote partnerships for nutrition.
- Form sub-groups under the NUTEC to address specific issues on and as need arises basis.

## **4. Composition of NUTEC**

### **4.1. Chairman, Advisors and Secretariat:**

Director General of Department of Health Services and Chief of Policy, Planning and International Cooperation Division (PPICD) will be Advisors and Director of Child Health Division (CHD) of Department of Health Services (DHS) of Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) of Nepal will serve as the Chairperson of NUTEC and the Chief of Nutrition Section of CHD will serve as the member secretary of the NUTEC. The secretariat of the NUTEC will be at Nutrition Section/CHD and all coordination mechanism will be initiated from the NUTEC secretariat.

### **4.2. Members**

Members include representation from the Department of Health Services (DHS)/MOHP, UN agencies, multi-lateral and bilateral donor agencies, international NGOs, academic institutions and national nutrition experts, the private sector and civil society organizations as listed below.

#### **4.2.1. Government**

- Director General, Department of Health Services
- Director, Family Health Division
- Director, National Health Education Information and Communication Centre
- Director, National Health Training Centre
- Director, Primary Health Care Revitalization Division
- Focal Person for Nutrition, Ministry of Health and Population
- Representative, Nepal Health Research Council
- Representative, National Nutrition Steering Committee, National Planning Commission
- Chief, Nutrition Section, Department of Food Technology and Quality Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

#### **4.2.2. Development Partners**

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)

- World Food Programme (WFP)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- European Union (EU)
- Department for International Development (DFID)
- Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
- World Bank (WB)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

#### **4.2.3. INGOs and Civil Society organizations**

- Helen Keller International in Nepal (HKI)
- Save the Children International – Nepal (SCF)
- Micronutrient Initiative – Nepal (MI)
- Nepali Technical Assistance Group (NTAG)
- Nepal Family Health Programme (NFHP)
- NFSTA
- World Vision International (WVI)

#### **4.2.4. Invitee Members from Academic and Other Relevant Institutions**

- Institute of Medicine (IoM), Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital
- Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS)
- Padma Kanya Campus
- Kanti Children’s Hospital
- Paropakar Maternity Hospital
- Nepal Youth Foundation (NYF)
- Nepal Nutrition Association (NNA)
- Society of Public Health Physician of Nepal (SOPHYN)
- Public Health Association of Nepal (PHAN)
- Nepal Medical Association (NMA)
- Nepal Society for Obstetrician and Gynaecologists (NESOG)
- NFSTA

#### **4.2.5. Nutrition Experts and Academicians**

- Prof. Dr. R.K. Adhikari
- Prof. Dr. P.S. Shrestha
- Prof. Dr. Madhu Devkota

### **4.3. Schedule and Venue for Meetings**

The meeting of NUTEC will be held at least times a year or as and when necessary or as decided by NUTEC Chairperson.

### **4.4. Technical Working Groups**

The NUTEC will form TWGs as required based on issues. It will identify key priorities in a particular year.

#### **4.5. Planning, Reporting and Information Sharing**

The Chairperson of NUTEC will report to higher authorities on progress and bottlenecks during regular meetings. Further, nutrition priorities will be reported, emerging concerns discussed and recommendations suggested for high level decisions/actions.

#### **4.6. Duration of Nutrition Technical Committee**

The tenure of NUTEC will be of permanent type unless further decision taken by MoHP on it.



## Annex



Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Health and Population  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**  
**CHILD HEALTH DIVISION**

Phone: Director 4261463  
EPI 4262263  
Nutrition 4261660  
CDD/ARI 4261660

Pachali, Teku  
Kathmandu, Nepal

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2011

Ref. No:

To,

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Sub: **Formation of Nutrition Technical Committee (NUTEC) and Invitation for first Meeting.**

With great pleasure, I would like to inform you that the Nutrition Technical Committee (NUTEC) has been recently formed with the decision of Ministry of Health and Population (Secretary Level) which is comprised as following:

.....  
Dr. Shyam Raj Upreti  
Director

### **Committee:**

#### **Advisors:**

- Director General, Department of Health Services
- Chief, Policy Planning and International Cooperation Division, MOHP

#### **Members:**

1. Director, Child Health Division (CHD) – Chairperson
2. Chief Nutrition Section – Member Secretary
3. Director, Family Health Division (FHD) – Member
4. Director, National Health Education Information and Communication Centre (NHEICC) – Member
5. Director, National Health Training Centre (NHTC)– Member
6. Director, Primary Health Care Revitalization Division (PHCRD) – Member
7. Nutrition Focal Person, Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP)– Member
8. Representative, Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC) – Member
9. Representative, National Nutrition Steering Committee (NNSC) of National Planning Commission (NPC) – Member
10. Chief, Nutrition Section, Department of Food Technology and Quality control Division (DFTQC)– Member

11. Representative, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) – Member
12. Representative, World Health Organization (WHO) – Member
13. Representative, World Food Programme (WFP) – Member
14. Representative, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) – Member
15. Representative, European Union (EU) – Member
16. Representative, Department for International Development (DFID) – Member
17. Representative, Australian Agency for International Development (Aus- AID) – Member
18. Representative, World Bank (WB) – Member
19. Representative, Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) – Member
20. Representative, Helen Keller International (HKI) – Member
21. Representative, Save The Children International – Member
22. Representative, Micronutrient Initiative (MI) – Member
23. Representative, Nepal Family Health Programme (NFHP) – Member
24. Representative, Nepali Technical Assistance Group (NTAG) – Member
25. Representative, World Vision International (WVI)– Member

**Invitee Members:**

1. Representative, Institute of Medicine (IoM), Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH) – Member
2. Representative, Patan Academy of Health Science – Member
3. Representative, Padma Kanya Campus – Member
4. Representative, Kanti Children Hospital – Member
5. Representative, Paropakar Maternity Hospital – Member
6. Representative, Nepal Youth Foundation (NYF) – Member
7. Representative, Nepal Nutrition Association (NNA) – Member
8. Representative, Society of Public Health Physician of Nepal (SOPHYN) – Member
9. Representative, Nepal Public Health Association (NEPHA) – Member
10. Representative, Nepal Medical Association (NMA) – Member
11. Representative, Nepal Society of Obstetric and Gynecologist (NESOG) – Member
12. Representative, NFSTA – Member
13. Prof. Dr. Ramesh Kant Adhikari, Kist Medical College, Lalitpur – Member
14. Prof. Dr. Prakash Sundar Shrestha, Institute of Medicine – Member
15. Prof. Dr. Madhu Devkota, Institute of Medicine – Member

I would like to welcome you as the member of committee.

The first meeting of the Nutrition Technical Committee will be held on following date and venue. I would like to request for your active participation and technical input during meeting.

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011

Time: 02:30 PM Onwards

Venue: Hotel Grand, Kathmandu