











A BRIEF REPORT

Covid-19 Cash Plus Intervention:

Promoting positive nutrition behaviors including public health safety messages with the families receiving cash Support and the community.





Introduction

In response to people impacted by 2nd wave of COVID 19 pandemic and flood after the monsoon season and as preparedness for 3rd wave of COVID pandemic, LIFE Nepal in the partnership with UNICEF Nepal implemented Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), Nutrition, Water & Sanitation Hygiene (WASH), Child Protection Programme in Madhesh Province, Nepal. The overall goal was to promote and sustain public health safety measures by preventing the loss of life to COVID-19 through supporting responses in risk communication and psychosocial support, addressing urgent humanitarian needs of adolescents, PwD (People with Disability), and families arising from the secondary impacts of renewed lockdown measures leading to malnutrition, protection issues, and disruption of learning. However, LIFE Nepal learned that direct payments of cash or cash transfers can help the poorest families meet their basic needs and generate a wide range of benefits, such as increased household productive capacity, improved children's school attendance, and better adolescent mental health. In addition, integrating cash transfers with other components can generate additional benefits for individuals as well as their households. Hence, LIFE Nepal with the technical and financial assistance from UNICEF Nepal implemented "COVID-19 cash plus (combination of cash transfers and complementary programs) interventionpromoting positive nutrition behaviors including public health safety messages with the families receiving cash support and the community" from 20th October to 31st December 2021.

Funding Agency

UNICEF Nepal

Locations

Rajbiraj municipality & Rajgardh rural municipality of Saptari district, Aurahi rural municipality and Janakpur sub-metropolitan city of Dhanusha district, Durga Bhagwati rural municipalities of Rautahat district in Madhesh Pradesh

Project Period

20th October to 31st December 2021

Outputs Output # 1 Mobilisers and volunteer increased capacities on communicating covid-19 preventive including nutrition, RCCE and WASH related contents Output #1 Output # 2 Improved advanced Output #9 Equipped One Stop nutrition and covid-19 preventive Crisis Management Centres so knowledge, attitudes and that to better respond GBV and Output #2 practices among households child protection cases receiving cash support Output #3 Health Output #8 Improved Child facilities and FCHVs Protection Response services Output #8 equipped with printed with regards to COVID-19 IEC materials Outputs pandemic Output # 4 Municipalities and other stakeholders Output #7 Improved enhanced coordination and coordination with local collaboration for sustainable governments mask use measures Output #5 Output #6 CPSWs enhanced Output # 5 Mobilization of community capacity and mobilized for volunteers in 5 local governments of Madhesh providing PFA service and PSS Province for protection monitoring and messages dissemination incident

Strategic Interventions

Capacity building of community Stakeholders and volunteers

- · Orientation and planning workshop
- · Mobilization of volunteers for the household visit
- · Orientation to Palika level stakeholders
- · Orientation to health facility in-charge
- Training to female community health volunteers

Advancing nutrition and covid-19 preventive knowledge, attitudes and practices among households receiving cash support

- FCHV mobilization
- Nutrition and preventive behaviours counselling through telephone
- Tuk-Tuk Mobilization
- · Radio Programme
- · Wall painting

Printing and dissemination of IEC material

- Flip chart
- · Swastha Aama Samuha Register
- Flex Print

Establish coordination and collaboration among municipalities and other stakeholders for sustainable mask use

- Capacity building of Staff and volunteers on promotion of PHSM
- Refresher training of volunteers and staff on promotion of PHSM

Mobilization of community volunteers for protection monitoring and incident

- Interview with Key Informants
- · Protection incident reporting

Psychosocial first aid (PFA) and psychosocial support (PSS)

- Selection and capacity building training to CPSWs
- · Mobilization of CPSWs and Counselor: PFA service, PSS messages
- Psychosocial first aid (PFA)
- · Cases referred to the counsellor by CPSWs

Establish functional coordination with local government

· Palika coordination / review meeting

Ensure Child Protection Response Services in regards with COVID-19 pandemic

- Vulnerability assessment
- Emergency support to children/families
- Reintegration support to children/families

Equip One Stop Crisis Management Centres for better responding GBV and child protection cases

- Training to OCMC staffs on child friendly services and communication skills
- Provision of gender friendly and child friendly materials to OCMCs
- · Coordination & technical support

Milestones Accomplished

One event of orientation and planning workshop completed, 56 (M 42, F 14) Mayor, Chairperson, Chief

Mayor, Chairperson, Chief Administrative Officer, Health Coordinator and Social Development Coordinator orineted on Cash Plus (Target: 1, Achieved: 1, Status: Met) Four events of <u>orientations to</u>
Palika level stakeholders
completed, 163 (M 127, F 36)
Palika stakeholders orineted

on Cash Plus (Target: 5, Achieved: 4, Status: On track) 359 trained FCHVs mobilized for screening, door to door visit, SMS behavior and conducting mother group meetings, 1791 MAM and 244 SAM children identified through MUAC screening of 23319 children, 716 mother group meeting organized and 69307 households visited (Target: 11000, Achieved: 69307, Status: Met)

Two events of orientation to volunteers completed under mobilization of volunteers for household visit, 96 (M 42, F 54) volunteers orineted on intensive use of ONA tool (Target: 1, Achieved: 2, Status: Met)

Five events of <u>orientations to</u> <u>health facility in charge</u> completed, 52 (M 46, F 6) health facilities in-charges orineted on Cash Plus

orineted on Cash Plus including nutrition, RCCE, WASH, and child protection (Target: 5, Achieved: 5, Status: Met)

Five events of training to female community health volunteers completed, 359 FCHVs trained on Cash Plus facilitated by health facility incharges (Target: 5, Achieved: 5, Status: Met)

Five events of nutrition and preventive behaviors counselling through telephone completed 2/52 households

completed, 2452 households were contacted, and 1380 households counseled through tele-counselling, they were aware on Cash Plush and for that 5 tele-counselors were mobilized (Target: 4233, Achieved: 1380, Status: On track)

Three events of radio programme completed, PSA message through radio was broadcasted from 3 radio station of Rautahat, Saptari and Dhanusa and radio program from CFM, Saptari (Target: 3, Achieved: 4, Status: met)

Flip chart distributed to all 358 FCHVs and 90 volunteers (Target: 500, Achieved: 500 Status: Met)

Five events of <u>Tuk-Tuk</u> mobilization completed, different types of messages about nutrition, RCCE and WASH disseminated, community people aware on nutrition, mask and vaccine promotion including WASH (Target: 5 Palikas, Achieved: 5 Palikas, Status: met)

Wall painting with message on nutrition, RCCE and WASH completed at 57 location in five Palikas i.e., 52 health facilities and 5 Palika offices (Target: 5 Palkas, Achieved: 5 Palkas, Status: Met) 359 sets of Swastha Aama Samuha Register distributed to all FCHV of 5 Palikas to conduct mother group meeting and make it functional (Target: 370, Achieved: 370, Status: Met) 260 pieces of flex printed and distributed to health facilities (5 pieces of flex to each 52 health facilities). Health facilities displayed for the visibility of Cash Plus interventions. (Target: 260, Achieved: 260, Status: Met)

One practical based <u>refresher</u> <u>training</u> of staffs and volunteers on promotion of PHSM completed, 31 (M 16, F 15) staffs and volunteers trained and enhanced knowledge on Cash Plus (Target: 1, Achieved: 1, Status: Met)

One event of capacity building training to selected CPSWs completed, 32 (M 17, F 15) CPSWs, counselors, Palika Focal Persons, GBV Coordinators, Palika Coordination Officers, Program Coordinator and Team Leader trained on PFA and PSS (Target: 1, Achieved: 1, Status: Met)

One event capacity building of staff and volunteers completed for the promotion of PHSM, 25 (M 12, F 13) staffs and volunteers of LIFE Nepal orineted on Cash Plus (Target: 1, Achieved: 1, Status: Met)

Fifty Key Informants
Interview completed, 50 key stakeholders took part in an interview and provided key information regarding protection incidents (Target: 50, Achieved: 50, Status: Met)

Total 502 incidents related with protection identified through KII and responded through protection incidents reporting mechanism (Target: 500, Achieved: 502, Status: Met)

Mobilization of 19 CPSWs and 2 Counselors completed. 14483 (M 8150, F 6333) persons oriented about importance of psychosocial support and provided psychosocial support (Target: 14250, Achieved: 14483, Status: Met)

Total 477 persons (M 108, F 369) referred to counsellor by 19 CPSWs in 5 working Palikas and benefited with the psychosocial and first aid support (Target: 477, Achieved: 477, Status: met)

Five events of <u>Palika</u>
<u>coordination/review meeting</u> completed,
180 (M 140, F 40) elected representatives
and government official participate and
expressed their thanks with appreciative
words for direct support to children
through Cash Grant (Target: 5, Achieved:
5, Status: Met)

1461 people (M 606, F 855) received psychosocial first aid support through 19 CPSWs, 5 Palika Focal Persons, and Counselors in five Palikas (Target: 1425, Achieved: 1461, Status: met) Vulnerability assessment of 502 (Boys 262, Girls 240) children completed in five Palikas. Out of them, 127 were single orphan, 18 double orphan, 357 vulnerable and 18 children with disability. (Target: 500, Achieved: 502, Status: Met)

The emergency support provided to 502 children from 5 Palikas (Durgabhagwati RM-75, Aurahi RM-76, Rajgadh RM-76, Rajbiraj Municipality-125 and Janakpurdham Sub-Metropolitan-150) of 3 districts (Dhanusha, Saptari and Rautahat). (Target: 500, Achieved: 502, Status: met) One event of training to OCMC staffs i.e., doctors, nurses, ANM, police, public health inspector, and girls' champions completed, 25 staffs trained and enhanced knowledge on child friendly services and communication skills (Target: 1, Achieved: 1, Status: met)

Coordination and technical support to 6 OCMCs completed. 206 concerned stakeholders participated and discussed on data presentation of child protection, sharing Progress, existing service, gaps, and challenges of OCMCs, and way forward for effective service delivery and prepare an action plan for future (Target: 6, Achieved: 6, Status: met)

A total 100 (Boys 50, Girls 50) children were provided <u>reintegration support</u> for alternative business i.e., Bangle shop, buffalo rearing, clothes, cosmetic shop, cycle repairing, doll, egg, electricity, fish, shop, Thela, goat keeping, grocery, saloon, tailoring, vegetable farming, tea, sweet shop, and soil goods production in the presence of elected representatives (Target: 100, Achieved: 100, Status: met)

Gender and child friendly materials like sanitary pad, diapers, oil, bathing and washing soap, blanket, Bhadakuti/doctor set, weight measurement machine, thermometer, carom board, stationaries, cloth baskets, dustbin, and recreational kits supported to OCMCs (Target: 6, Achieved: 6, Status: met)

Two programme review meetings with staffs were completed. In addition, the provincial review meeting was also organized with the presence of government officials from PHD and respective Palikas.

75 sets of recreational kits distributed to women, children and senior citizen centre of District Police Office and Child Clubs in all eight districts of Madesh Province

People Reached



312 Girls



290 Boys



9435 Male



8211 Female



359 FCHVs

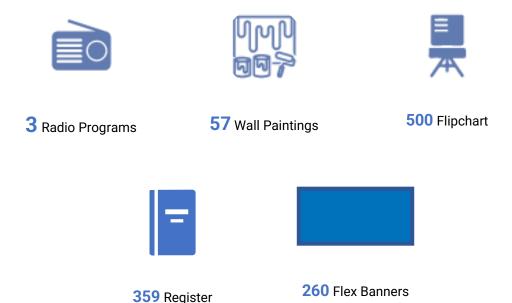


14483 Households



549 Stakeholders

IEC/BCC Materials Used



Good Practices and Learning

 Through the MUAC screening of 23319 children by 359 trained FCHVs, 1791 MAM and 244 SAM cases were identified. In addition, FCHVs organized 716 events of mother group meetings. Also, they did door to door home visits of 50545 households in 15 days. NCV has mobilized all 359 FCHVs for home visits more than 5 days and they reached 18762 additional



households, however, the total target was 11000 hrs. Hence, local level volunteer mobilization is the key approach to reach and access high numbers of households and children in the community in a short period of time.



10 days. Different types of messages about nutrition, RCCE, and WASH were disseminated in the community. It was helpful in creating awareness among community people about nutrition, mask, and vaccine promotion including the WASH component. In this way, for the mass awareness-raising and communication Tuk-Tuk mobilization with a megaphone announcement approach

Tuk-Tuk was mobilized in all targeted five Palikas for

is crucial.

 Capacity building training for staff and volunteers was conducted. The training was completely practical-based (MTOT model) that helped staff and volunteers of LIFE Nepal to enhance their knowledge on Cash Plus intervention easily. Hence, the **practical-based** training approach is an important tool for capacity building.



• Elected representatives and a government official participated in province-level orientation and review meetings. In addition, 502 vulnerable children were provided emergency support and 100 families with reintegration support to start alternative businesses of livelihood improvement in the presence of elected representatives and authorized government officials. Finally, elected representatives and government officials owned the program by expressing their thanks and appreciated the works of direct support to children and families. Hence, the engagement of elected representatives and authorized government officials in the program implementation and monitoring is the best way to make them accountable and responsive to the program.



 Gender and child-friendly materials like a sanitary pad, diapers, oil, bathing, and washing soap, blanket, Bhadakuti/doctor set, weight measurement machine, thermometer, carom board, stationaries, cloth baskets, dustbin, and recreational kits distributed to six OCMCs of Madesh to ensure effective gender/child-friendly service delivery from OCMCs. Through this, survivors had an opportunity of playing/use materials that contributed to overcoming the stress and recreating themselves. Hence, equipping OCMCs with gender and child-friendly materials is essential for reducing stress and recreating protection for survivors.

Challenges Faced

 All the targeted people were not reached through tele-counseling due to telephone unreachable or not properly connected in poor networks, not responding, or received by people, and mobile switched off.

Photos













Case Studies

1. Sangeeta has started the tailoring shop

Sangeeta Mandal, a resident of Aurahi Rural Municipality-5, has started a tailoring shop. She is a single woman with 3 children (2 daughters and 1 son). Her husband died when she was 21 years old. After the death of her husband, she suffered from the economic crisis. She was not even able to send her children to school, resulting in depression and leading to psychosocial problems. However, through the Cash Plus program, which was funded by the UNICEF, LIFE Nepal identified her needs and supported her with Rs.

20,000 to purchase the sewing machine. After receiving the support, Sangeeta started her own tailoring business. Life Nepal also provided her with psychosocial support through the community psychosocial workers and counselors. These days, she has become more confident and mentally strong. Through her business, she earns 8,000 rupees per month and is able to send her children to school.

2. Paramshila has started the tea shop

Paramshila Devi Sahani, Aurahi Rural Municipality-6 resident, 35, has opened a tea shop. She is a single mother with 5 children (3 daughters and 2 sons). Her husband was missed in India when he worked there. She has no land. She was facing economic problems in her family. She was not able to send her children to school. She was also suffering from psychosocial problems. The Cash Plus program, which was funded by the UNICEF, LIFE Nepal identified her needs and supported her with Rs. 20,000. After the support, she is very happy and has started



her own tea shop in the local market. She was also provided with psychosocial support through the community psychosocial worker and counselor. Nowadays, she is earning more than Rs. 10,000/- on a monthly basis.

3. Shivakaliya Kumari Mahato has opened the Panipuri Shop

Shivakaliya Kumari Mahato, GBV survivor whose husband left her with two children and was staying at the maternal home after being tortured and ignored by the husband and his family, is now operating her Panipuri stall with IGA support from Life Nepal. Her first day's income from the stall was 600 rupees, up to now, she has earned 800 rupees as her highest income. She wants to improve the business by adding local food items to the stall. She has a habit of saving money in a piggy bank. At the very least, she saves 20 rupees a day.



4. Demonstration of cooking food by FCHVs helped in enhancing knowledge of mother in preventing her child from malnutrition

Satyam Das is a 9-month-old youngest child in the family. Her mother Sunita Das is just 22 years old and is a permanent resident of Aurahi Rural Municipality Ward -5. She represents the dalit and poor families in the community. She is a housewife and usually spends her whole day performing household chores. Her husband is a daily wage worker. They do not have a single piece of land except a mud-made house/hut. Her husband's all income goes for feeding the family members. During mother group meetings FCHVs has counseled about the importance of 4 food groups and how to prepare a healthy and nutritious diet. She was



motivated a lot and she feel herself to be energized now she is preparing food for the child as per



the communication in the meeting by FCHVs. She was not that conscious but after getting knowledge she tried to manage varieties of foodstuff during cooking though there is an economic crisis in the family.

According to the mother, Sunita had started complementary feeding after the completion of six months except for milk. Now, she is too conscious of her child and providing a nutritious diet during the meal. Sunita learned how to prepare food well and how to prepare healthy

nutritious food for children from the demonstration by FCHVs. She also became familiar that we should not promote junk food since it creates harm to the body and is not healthier. The demonstration helped in enhancing the knowledge of the mother and preventing her child from the worst scenario of malnutrition.

5. Volunteer mobilization in the community has played an effective role in Mask and Vaccine promotion.



Daropati Devi Sada mother from a marginalized community in Rajbiraj Municipality Ward No.-12. Her husband Ajay Sada works on a construction site and she herself is a housewife. Her husband usually spends his whole day earning for living. They have to low income and is illiterate. They never use a mask and he was not vaccinated (Covid Vaccine). They have not much idea about vaccines and there was the low practice of mask use in the community.

As LIFE Nepal volunteer counseled, the family were motivated and now whenever they go outside in a crowd, they use mask, and the husband of Daropati Devi Sada is vaccinated now. Volunteers were even mobilized in the community and school for mask and vaccine

promotion. Now most of the people in the community and students in the school use mask and most of them are vaccinated by following protocol.

6. Cash Plus Intervention program ensured nutrient essential for child and prevented malnutrition.

Usha Paswan is a caring mother and a loving wife. She is affiliated to a poverty-stricken family, living in the Durgabhagwati Rural Municipality ward no 2 of Rautahat district. Her cute baby boy – Aditya Kumar Dusad, aged 2 months has been a beautiful godsend for the family.

One day, Pinky overheard her neighbours talking about a cash distribution from palika under cash plus intervention program and she went to palika for verification whether she was in criteria or not. As per her communication in social development section she came to know about her name was addressed in the list. On the distribution date FCHV has communicated her about the distribution of Cash from the palika and she received cash including different nutrition, WASH and RCCE Message.



She says" This program has been a revelation to me in terms of understanding the nutritional, water and sanitation including mask use message. She also said that I was not well aware about this content. This program has been a great support to me and my child. Now I will utilize money to manage healthy nutritional diet to my child. I would like to Thank whole team for the great support."