**CALL TO ACTION for Nutrition partners in Chhattisgarh**

In March 2020, Nutrition Development partners’ alliance established and termed “NIRMAN”- Network of Institutions to respond to Malnutrition for concurrence of all partners. The alliance consists development partners and government partners active in Chhattisgarh with different objectives, capacities and expertise and with common aim of improving nutrition in state. On 8th April 2020 and 12th May 2020, virtual partners meet for organizations working around children and women in Chhattisgarh held. These virtual meetings were organized with two broad objectives:

1. Understanding the response from the partners based in Chhattisgarh to support the state for nutrition interventions in times of COVID-19
2. Identification of capacity of each partner and their geographical coverage to deliver last mile nutrition services, care and protection to children and women during and post lockdown period
3. Planning of Joint coordinated activities to respond COVID in state

As part of the meeting following recommendations were made as “Call to Action” from alliance partners.

1. **Coordination with state government on Actions for Migrants:**

Advocacy with the State Government for identification and listing of migrant population. This will help partners for coordinated actions in their geographical reach and essential nutrition and WASH services will be ensured for migrants. Support can be extended for linking migrants’ families with essential nutrition services under ICDS, NHM and with PDS. Those will be benefitted with existing social protection safety net programmes in state.

1. **Rapid Assessment Survey:**

Partners can collaboratively conduct the rapid assessment survey based on assessment tools developed jointly and a report can be shared with government for

* To understand the status of field-based service delivery at community level
* To know IYCF practices and foods and feeding pattern in the community and status of food accessibility along with food availability in market
* To understand the impact of lockdown on nutritional status of children and women

1. **Initiating and strengthening growth monitoring services:**

Planning and creating a step wise guide for initiating growth monitoring with COVID prevention protocols follow up. Further to this, support to field functionaries can be provided through team members and volunteers working with partners in identified geographies. This will help in identifying vulnerable children and families and their referral to appropriate health facilities for further treatment and support.

1. **Support in field through technical advisory briefs:**

Technical advisory briefs developed for continuity of services based on global and national guidance and evidences available for management of nutrition in times of COVID-19. Based on the advisories issued, partners can extend support to state government as per the expertise and capacities available. Some of the broad subjects for the advocacy briefs are mentioned here:

* Delivering essential nutrition services in times of COVID-19
* Maternal, Infant and Young child nutrition
* Micronutrient Supplementation for women and children
* Management of wasting in the context of COVID-19

1. **Planning for restoring nutrition services during and post lockdown:**

Partners coming together to chalk out the plan for restoring nutrition services with support in particular areas of concern. This would help department in restarting services in phased manner and services would be streamlined. The optimum focus would be on consumption of healthy diets by general population, easy access to nutritious and diversified diet for children, uninterrupted micronutrient supplementation and access to appropriate knowledge and guidance for nutrition for growth and development.

We urge all partners to take collective efforts to support the States in the fight against COVID-19.