

Sandesh Neupane

Public Health Professional

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SYNOPSIS

As a dedicated, energetic, and detail-oriented public health professional, I have gained a strong foundation in understanding health, development, disparity issues, and the importance of core public health principles for health system management and strengthening through my graduation in public health.

Throughout my career, I have held various positions in the public health field, which has allowed me to develop a unique ability to manage multi-disciplinary projects and handle complex challenges. I strongly believe that passion and hard work can make a difference, and I aspire to be the catalyst for change in my society and nation.

I have over a decade of experience in health system strengthening, community system strengthening, program management, policy development, government structure & working modalities, advocacy networking & coordination, COVID-19 response, public health nutrition, maternal & neonatal health, emergency response, sub-award management, private sector engagement, training design & facilitation, project design & implementation, data-driven strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, global partnership, and working with EDPs partners. I have a thorough understanding of the federalized health structure and health system governance in Nepal.

Currently, I oversee national and HIV, TB, Malaria, Sustainable and Resilient System for Health and COVID19 Response programs with various donors such as Global Fund, USAID, FCDO, and GIZ.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

1. Master in Public Health, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand, 2014
2. Bachelor in Public Health, Purbanchal University, Nepal, 2011,
3. Proficiency Certificate level in General Medicine (Health Assistant), CTEVT, 2008.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Coordinator, Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) Nepal, Ministry of Health and Population, November 2018 till date

1. Lead the wider consultation process in all three tiers of Government (country dialogue process) for preparation and submission of proposal to Global Fund and secured funding of USD 53 million for HIV, TB and Malaria Program and USD 29 million for COVID-19 response for funding period 2021-2024.
2. Coordinate closely with Secretary, different divisions and centers of MoHP, other line ministries including MoHP, MoF, MoWCSC & MOFAGA in Federal level and other health related authorities in provincial and local level to provide technical support and strategic direction to implement the Resilient and Sustainable System for Health (RSSH) related activities under the global fund grants in the country.
3. Facilitating in carrying out in-country review and dialogue on coverage of services for HIV, TB and Malaria, especially in coordination and collaboration with national programs and TWG of respective disease components in order to enhance efficiencies through alignment and harmonization of global fund supported intervention.
4. Facilitating liaising process with national, non-government agencies, Private sectors and development partners to ensure global fund activities are developed and implemented in close alignment with other efforts and to ensure that information for robust gap analyses is available based on national HIV, TB and malaria strategic plans.
5. Ensuring that the global fund grants are on track to deliver the outcomes and impacts according to the objectives of the grants.
6. Lead the process to develop the long-term sustainability plan for HIV, TB and Malaria programme with concrete actions required to increase the domestic funding for HIV, TB and Malaria programme to make these programme sustainable and reduce donor's dependence.

7. Lead the process for HR capacity assessment of MoHP, NCASC, NTCC and EDCD to develop and implement costed HR capacity building plan of MoHP, NCASC, NTCC and EDCD at federal, provincial and palika level to implement HIV, TB and malaria programs.
8. Provide policy advice, process management and program advisory support to Ministry of Health and Population; undertake policy analysis and capacity development process, addressing development needs of the implementing units.
9. Closely coordinating with different bilateral/multilateral agencies (WHO, UNAIDS, USAID, GIZ, FCDO, UNICEF) for implementing the global fund grant in Nepal. Coordinating and monitoring the implementation of global fund's regional grants in the country and ensuring donor harmonization and portfolio optimization.
10. Facilitate the development and revision process of different disease specific national strategic plans (HIV Strategic Plan-NHSP) 2021-2026, National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Prevention, Care and Control (NTSP) 2021-2026 and National Malaria Strategic Plan (NMSP) 2014-2025 through CCM.
11. Facilitate at MoHP, MoF and disease entities to ensure the allocation and implementation of budget in government Redbook as per the Government's commitment to Global Fund as part of its co-Financing requirement of the Global Fund Grant.

Program Coordinator-Prevention: Global Fund Program (Based at National Centre for AIDS and STD Control – NCASC, a Government Agency), Save the Children Nepal, 9th September, 2016 to 31 October 2018

1. Assisted the NCASC Program team in planning, implementation and monitoring of Prevention related activities (PMTCT, HTC/STI, and OST) of national HIV/ AIDS Program.
2. Worked with NCASC program team and other implementing/technical partners in developing and updating national guidelines, standard operating procedures, training curriculum and technical materials for supervision and monitoring.
3. Provided on-site training to health workers on PMTCT, HTC/STI, OST, TB/HIV coinfection and ART services.
4. Reviewed all periodic programmatic reports submitted by relevant service delivery sites and provided feedbacks.
5. Provided technical assistance to procurement and supply chain team in quantification of medicines and health products, coordinated with them for smooth supply of test kits, ARV drugs, OIs drugs and STI drugs in the districts and “No Stock out” is reported from all sites.
6. Worked with NCASC, provinces, local levels and partners in preparing annual work plan and budget of National HIV Program.
7. Coordinated with district focal persons in making rationale use of budget allocated for HIV program. Developed a very healthy and close relation with the chiefs and the HIV focal persons of all 77 D (P) HOs and followed with them for the timely reporting of the services provided. Established myself as a contact point at NCASC for all HIV focal persons throughout the country.
8. Played a lead role from NCASC to roll out the PMTCT services all over the country. Almost all of the health staff all over the country are trained for PMTCT service and the service have been started in total 4149 health facilities.

Regional Program Coordinator- Far Western Region for Global Fund Project, Save the Children, Dhangadi; 3rd August, 2015 to 8th September, 2016

1. Provided support to Provincial Government in program planning, implementation and monitoring.
2. Provided support to implementing partners and service delivery sites in program planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and supervision of HIV, TB and Malaria program in the region, supported Project Manager for timely completion of all HIV, TB and Malaria related activities with quality results in the region.
3. Did Follow up and ensured that project funds are timely disbursed to implementing partners and service delivery sites accordance with the project document and project work plans/budget
4. Ensured all supplies are received in time, delivered to all implementing partners and service delivery sites as per the need and ‘No stock out’ is reported from all sites in the region
5. Assisted in organizing regional/district level HIV, TB and Malaria program review meetings, technical discussion forums, trainings/workshops
6. Conducted frequent monitoring field visits (including joint monitoring) to ensure timely and quality implementation of projects as per the approved work plans. Provided on-site coaching/mentoring to relevant implementing partners and service delivery sites on various aspects of HIV, TB and Malaria program as per the need
7. Monitored and analyzed the grant absorption rate, monthly tracking and review of expenditures of HIV, TB and Malaria program in region to report to Project Manager
8. Supported the management team to plan, design, implement and monitor the quality of training/ workshop at Principal Recipient and implementing partner level.

9. Developed strong coordination and linkages with Regional Health Service Directorate, DACCs, implementing partners and service delivery sites for HIV, TB and Malaria program implementation
10. Ensured efficient and effective coordination, capacity building and documentation support for the key national events related to HIV, TB and Malaria

Consultant, Save the Children for Global Fund Project, 19 June to 15 July 2015

Conducted “Rapid Need Assessment to inform Public Health Needs” in Earthquake affected districts. As a consultant, I performed the following duties:

1. Collected the real-time data that clearly outlined immediate, midterm and long term needs of HIV positive persons, children affected by HIV/AIDS (CABA) and key affected populations KAPs) in earthquake affected districts
2. Performed the assessment of health sites in earthquake affected districts, especially frequented by key affected populations to understand a) possible service disruptions and infrastructural damage; b) alternative or temporary health service arrangements; c) provision of HIV specific services in the district (e.g. ART services, in-patient services, testing and diagnostic services)
3. Critically analyzed the health service accessibility for Key Affected Population especially PLHIV to learn whether the consequences of the earthquake and the monsoon have affected (or would affect) service accessibility.
4. Prioritized practical recommendations and appropriate modality to implement the emergency response for HIV related key populations in the earthquake affected districts.

Consultant: Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (Maternity Cover), Saath-Saath Project, FHI 360 Nepal, 6th November 2014 to 29th may, 2015

Assigned as a consultant under the direct supervision of SI specialist, my major areas of work included the following:

1. Supported project M&E team as back-stopping for M & E Specialist role in carrying out project monitoring as per M&E Plan
2. Supported in data analysis, data management and onsite data verification of Saath-Saath Project implementing agencies
3. Conducted onsite visits in carrying out semi-annual Data Quality Assessment (DQA) and data verification of project partners
4. Supported M&E team to review, compile and analyze monthly and semi-annual performance indicators using routine program monitoring data generated from the project management information system (MIS) software;
5. Supported M&E team in various capacity building activities designed for improving the capacity of recording and reporting, program monitoring and data analysis of project implementing partners;

Lead Training Consultant, Action Contre la Faim, Nepal (ACF-Nepal), 8 September to 23 September 2014

As a Lead training consultant on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding (MIYCF), I performed the following duties:

1. Designed the training program and developed the training manuals;
2. Facilitated the MTOT on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding (MIYCF)
3. Prepared the training report after completion of training.

Consultant, National Planning Commission/ School of Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (SPMER), Kathmandu, 10 June to 3 September 2014

As a consultant assigned for the “Evaluation of integrated Women’s and Reproductive Health” a program of National Planning Commission funded by UNDP, I performed the following tasks:

1. Prepared detail methodology and evaluation plan for “Evaluation of Integrated Women’s and Reproductive Health”;
2. Designed evaluation instruments, particularly questionnaires and checklists to their parts/components and consolidate thematic questionnaires;
3. Overseen the implementation and monitored the field survey in all implementing districts to ensure that right data are being generated, collected and the surveys are carried out appropriately;
4. Processed and analyzed data with the support of research team using different multivariate and composite analysis tools;

Consultant, Child Health Division, Department of Health Service, Teku, Kathmandu, 28 April to 4th June, 2014

As a consultant, I performed the following tasks”

- A. Monitoring and evaluation (follow up) of “Community Based Neonatal Care Program” (CBNCP) in Kailali district,

1. Prepared detail methodology and follow up plan for “Community Based Neonatal Care program (CBNCP)”;
 2. Designed and evaluated instruments, particularly questionnaires and checklists to their parts and consolidated thematic questionnaires;
 3. Monitored, evaluated and supervised the program at district, health facility and community level;
 4. Analyzed and presented the findings in DPHO, prepared the final report on the programs and submitted to Child Health Division.
- B. District level training facilitation “Infant and Young Child Feeding” (IYCF) program in Khotang District
1. Conducting the coordination and introductory meeting with the stakeholders of the district.
 2. Planning and co-coordinating training program, facilitation of District level and Health facility level training
 3. Supervised, monitored and evaluated the program at community level
 4. Prepared and submitted the training report to Child Health Division.

Research Officer, School of Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (SPMER), Kathmandu
1st January 2012 to 25 January 2013

As a Research officer, I performed the following tasks”

1. Supported to develop proposal, budget planning, evaluation and preparation of progress report;
2. Conducted trainings, seminars and workshops;
3. Monitored and evaluated the surveys conducted during the period
4. Identified, Formulated, Planned, Monitored and Evaluated the projects using logical framework (log frame) model;
5. Assisted the team Leader in data management and Processing, data Interpretation and report writing

Instructor, Education Communication and Health Organization (ECHO), Lalitpur
Nov 15, 2010- Nov 26, 2011

- Conduct the overall activities and take sessions routinely
- Supervise, monitor and routinely evaluate the student's performance
- Preparation of essential records and reports
- Plan and manage field activities
- Co-ordination with different health institution and bodies as per necessary

Health Assistant, Ministry of Health and Population
June 1st –August 30, 2008

- Involvement in Mobile Clinic as a team Leader in the remote areas of Bajhang district.
- Actively involved doing O.P.D. consultations, providing health education & training to the community generate awareness during cholera outbreaks.
- Team Supervision and referring the patients to the main Clinic for further treatment and maintenance, admitting/referring critical cases to the hospital.
- Close collaboration, coordination and cooperation with community and MoH Staffs for smooth functioning
- Receive and give feedback to the supervisors about the program and inform about situation.
- Coordinated with government authorities and stakeholders (VDC/DDC, DHO), other NGOs and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in both local and district levels
- Supported the field staff to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate other related activities of the project
- Collected information regarding the project's activities, analyzed these data and gave a feedback to the different actors and partners in the district
- Guided patients throughout the clinical encounter, from registration to laboratory tests, medical consultation and prescription
- Diagnosed and treated patients according to MoHP guidelines
- Provided health education related to the medical condition of patients
- Provided counseling to patients regarding hygiene & sanitation (and available methods) and following – up these cases
- Referred patients with severe and complicated medical conditions or unclear diagnosis to the project's Medical Doctor
- Admitted patients to the IPD with a detailed plan of management (investigations, treatment and follow-up) as ordered by the Medical Doctor

SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS

Academic Thesis/Project Work:

1. Knowledge and attitude assessment on HIV/AIDS among the men who have sex with men in Thailand. A dissertation submitted to faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok for the award of Master's Degree in Public Health (MPH). 2014.

2. Prevalence of nutritional status among the under five children of Bote community in Chitawan district. A thesis submitted to Faculty of Applied Science, Purbanchal University, Little Buddha College of Health Science, for the award of Bachelor Degree in Public Health (BPH). 2011.

Peer Reviewed Publications:

1. Adhikari B, Pokharel S, Raut S, Adhikari J, Thapa S, Paudel K, G CN, **Neupane S**, Neupane SR, Yadav R, Shrestha S, Rijal KR, Marahatta SB, Cheah PY, Pell C. Why do people purchase antibiotics over-the-counter? A qualitative study with patients, clinicians and dispensers in central, eastern and western Nepal. *BMJ Glob Health* 2021 May; 6(5): e005829.
2. Rupa Shiwakoti I, 2*, Yogendra Bahadur Gurung I, Ram Chandra Poudel I, 3, **Sandesh Neupane2**, Ram Krishna Thapa4, Sailendra Deuja5 and Ram Sharan Pathak I. Factors affecting utilization of sexual and reproductive health services among women with disabilities. A mixed method cross-sectional study from Ilam district. *BMC Health Services Research* (2021) 21:1361
3. Community and stakeholder engagement to develop priorities for national HIV, TB and Malaria programs in Nepal (Ongoing)

TRAINING AND WORKSHOP

1. Attended the South-East Asia (SEA) Constituency leadership Workshop, 22nd -23rd December 2019, IIHMR Jaipur
2. Attended the Regional Level workshop of Country Focal Points from CCM's of Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Nepal, Philippines and Vietnam Building Synergies to Promote Harm Reduction and Ending AIDS in Asia, 27 - 28 November 2019, Siem Reap, Cambodia.
3. Attended the Regional Policy Dialogue on "Ensuring Sustainable Access to Medicines in Least Developed Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region Organized by Asia-Pacific Network of People living with HIV (APN+) and Third World Network (TWN), 28 – 29 August 2019, Bangkok, Thailand.
4. Attended the Inter-Regional Consultation and workshop on transition and sustainability readiness organized by apcom.org on 29 – 30 April 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
5. Attended the 2nd Regional level workshop of CCM representatives and CSOs, Multi Country Global Fund Harm Reduction Advocacy in Asia organized by India HIV/AIDS Alliance, November 21-23 2018, Bali Indonesia.
6. Project Management Training organized by Save the Children, Country Office, Nepal, 5th-7th September 2017.
7. MTOT on "Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission on HIV, February 28th- March 2nd, 2016, NCASC, Kathmandu, Nepal
8. Training on "HIV Response Monitoring in Nepal" conducted by NCASC with support from USAID-funded *Saath-Saath Project*, Kathmandu, Nepal, November 15-17, 2014
9. TOT on the Qualitative Methods and Data Analysis Process in Health Research" Nepal Health Research Council, (NHRC). 31st august-5th September 2014.
10. Training on "Infant & Young Child Feeding Counseling Training" (IYCF), Child Health Division, Teku, Kathmandu; 29th June-1st July 2014).
11. International Public Health Conference on "Ecological Perspectives in Public Health for Sustainable Development: Changes, Risks, Challenges", Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, 15th August-16th August, 2013
12. Training on "Community Based Integrated Management for Childhood Illness" (CBIMCI), Child Health Division, Teku, Kathmandu. 21st February-27th February 2012.
13. "TOT" Training institute for Technical Instruction, (TITI), CTEVT, Bhaktapur, 31 January-11 February, 2011.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

1. Registered at Nepal Health Professional Council, Kathmandu, Nepal.
2. Member, Nepal Public Health Association, Kathmandu, Nepal

LANGUAGES

Proficient in Nepali (a native speaker), Fluent in English (day-to-day office work is in English medium), Good in Hindi, Good in Doteli and a few Terai Dialects of Nepal.

REFERENCE

Will be provided upon request