

## National School Health and Nutrition Strategy – Effective Implementation September 2008

On September 18 and 19, 2008, the Ministry of Health and Population and the Ministry of Education, in partnership with Save the Children US, JICA, CCS Italy, and Helen Keller International, hosted a National Workshop on the National School Health and Nutrition (SHN) Strategy for its effective implementation. More than one hundred participants from governmental and non governmental organizations participated in the workshop. Organizations currently implementing SHN interventions presented on and discussed a variety of issues relating to SHN that focused on Nepal's existing needs, ongoing activities, and possible future directions which could assist the National SHN program strategy. Major accomplishments to date are:



*SHN related materials, publications and documents were displayed at the workshop to better the understanding*



Ministry of Education

- Initiation of a SHN Network formation at the central level

- Development of a National SHN Strategy
- Development of a National SHN Program Implementation Guideline
- Creation of a National SHN Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Health and Population and the

The workshop's aim was to provide a forum to share highlights of the National SHN Strategy and discuss how the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Population with support from external development partners and stakeholders can operate effectively. It also worked to identify gaps in the SHN program in Nepal.

Defining the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, from the local and



district level to the national level, was a critical focus in an attempt to improve coordination among the many different actors working in SHN. Additionally, different priorities of the SHN program were discussed and evaluated in order to begin to determine on what activities and interventions the National Implementation Strategy would focus. Priority areas for further improvement recommended by the participants were:

- Acceleration of the SHN program operationalization at all levels by establishing SHN coordination committees at local, regional, and national levels
- Create enabling environment to implement SHN program at all levels by establishing Regional SHN Committees, District SHN Committees and Committees in schools
- Encourage all implementers to collect more evidence by conducting rigorous evaluations
- Develop well defined set of indicators in coordination with Health Management Information System and Education Management Information System



*Participants during a group brainstorming*



*Dr. GP Ojha inaugurates the*

The workshop was a successful beginning to establishing understanding and commitment among stakeholders for an effective implementation of the National SHN Strategy. The Directors from the Department of Health and Education concluded the workshop congratulating all stakeholders and participants on the workshop and stating how their respective departments would move the SHN program forward in the upcoming days.

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