Rehabilitation and Palliative care – Virtual Meeting
Global reach, 16 July – 1PM (IST)

Issues; Way Forwards
Issues and Challenges

- **Dr. Mek** – neglected areas; require multisectoral; huge unmet needs;
- Only approx. 50% of counties have Rehab services in their National COVID plans
- Impact of COVID-19 on rehabilitation services - 2nd most frequently reported (73); Cancer services – 9th most frequently (Survey Results)
- **Ms. Pauline** – many needs for Rehab because of COVID itself
- **Dr. Mathew** - Challenges/ Barriers – Supply chain; PPE; Inadequate social support; Access issues; public transport and taxies; FEAR about getting Corona infection Psycho-social issues, Disability certificates; 40% children could not access;
- **Assistive Technologies** - Repair of aids, prosthetics, orthotics and adaptive assistive aids & glasses, hearing aids affected
- **Dr. Yadu** – Counselling skills provided; Overshadowing of palliative care vs high risk; Closed or skeletal services; Stigmatized
- Alternatives used: tele-health, help lines, task-sharing, improvising old material; upskilling and transdisciplinary teamwork
- Participants / Chat box – info; queries, personal experiences, Access to health care; to improve quality of care, Info toxicity, social distancing difficult in homes, No treatment for MH issues, No repairs for AT
Way forwards

- **Continuity in** Rehabilitation and Palliative services for both Non-COVID and COVID+ patients is crucial.
- Required along the continuum of care for COVID – Acute, Post- Acute, Long Term.
- Utilize lessons learnt, strengthen collaboration; donor prioritization; resources,
- **Inclusive** service delivery, capacity building, better **management**;
- Opportunity to harness telehealth for longterm; continue helplines; task sharing;
- Access to food and medicines (Home delivery);
- Non-physical Labour employment Guarantee /Social security;
- **To take care of** Protection of Health care workers – PPEs; Negative air pressure;
- **Inclusive care - personalize care** – especially for PwDs;
- Nepal – **shown leadership** by including Rehab and Palliative care; community care;
- Myanmar – **mobile vans** to provide prostheses and services

**Health services should be robust.**