

TOKYO
NUTRITION
FOR GROWTH
SUMMIT 2021



Side Event on

Promoting Better Nutrition Outcomes through Multi-sectoral Approach in Post-COVID-19 Asia and the Pacific

Thursday, 2 December 2021
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Manila time)

Summary

The event discusses the role of social protection in strengthening nutrition delivery and vice versa, emphasizing the importance of nutrition interventions in the post-pandemic world towards resilience and building back better. The discussions open with nutrition challenges in the context of the pandemic and the multi-sectoral pathways for high-impact nutrition interventions. The session also spotlights interventions that break down the “how” of delivering social protection and nutrition better in Mongolia, Indonesia, and Philippines, plus active interactions and reflections from speakers and participants.

Overview

Good nutrition is necessary to protect young child growth, cognition, and school performance, improve lifetime earnings and productivity, and ultimately break the cycle of poverty. Its importance is reflected in the fact that 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contain highly relevant nutrition indicators. However, current progress towards ending malnutrition is too slow to achieve these goals by the 2030 target. COVID-19 fueled economic losses, and break-down of supply chains have further slowed progress towards nutrition-related targets, with no country now on track to achieve the SDGs.

Governments have widely recognized the need to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on the most vulnerable populations, including women, young children, adolescent girls, and minority groups who are poorly reached by basic services and safety nets. To alleviate the nutritional impacts, restore food security, and rebuild resilience, governments in Asia and the Pacific have expanded the reach and scale of existing social protection programs, building on the progress of recent decades in putting national systems into place. Many of these measures were designed to be temporary and now need to be integrated into national and sub-national social protection platforms and mandates that address the underlying factors leading to food and nutrition insecurity, especially among the poorest families.

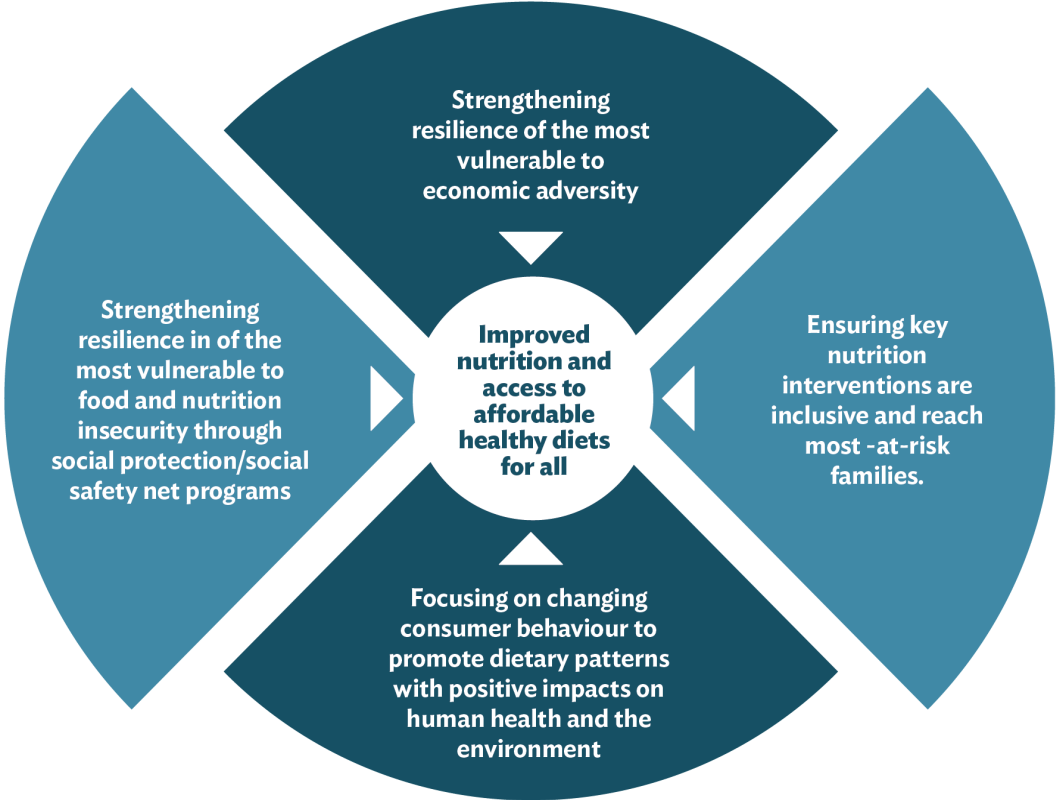
The [Nutrition for Growth \(N4G\) Summit](#), to be held on 7-8 December 2021, aims to discuss these issues and collectively find solutions to help transform the global actions to achieve the World Health Assembly targets on maternal, infant, and young child nutrition, and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals’ targets to support the United Nations Decade for Action on Nutrition. The Summit is also a timely event and a global milestone in collectively sharing innovations and solutions to nutrition security impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Purpose

Introducing evidence, innovation, and best practices to addressing food and nutrition security is a common goal of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and [Nutrition International \(NI\)](#). ADB specializes in providing finance and technical assistance to its developing member countries across its sectors and themes, in line with its Strategy 2030. NI, meanwhile, provides technical assistance to address nutrition and food security to national governments in Asia and Africa.

This joint side event by ADB and NI on “Promoting Better Nutrition Outcomes through Multi-sectoral Approach in Post-COVID 19 Asia and the Pacific” supports the N4G Summit. The side event discusses the framework to address selected drivers of food and nutrition insecurity, malnutrition, and unaffordability of healthy diets in Asia and the Pacific (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Framework to address selected drivers of food nutrition insecurity, malnutrition and unaffordability of healthy diets.



Source: ‘State of the Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021’ report.¹

¹ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2021. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition, and affordable healthy diets for all. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4474en>

The discussions focus on evidence and experiences from key countries that demonstrate the need to systematically link cash or food-based social protection programs² with nutrition-related interventions to have nutritional impact. Additional areas of discussions also include multisectoral, gender-transformative approaches that are essential to addressing the complex underlying factors that continue to produce poor nutritional outcomes and undermine individual, family, and community resilience; and short-term responses to shocks, including COVID-19 and climate events, which must likewise be gender-responsive and built onto existing platforms and programs.

Specific Objectives

Considering the role of social protection in strengthening nutrition delivery and the importance of nutrition intervention to build resilience post-COVID-19 world, the side event specifically aims to:

- a. Discuss nutrition challenges in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- b. Identify the multisectoral pathways for high-impact nutrition interventions;
- c. Spotlight high-impact social protection and nutrition security interventions in Mongolia, Indonesia, Philippines and others to capture and share issues, challenges, lessons learned and more importantly the innovations and solutions; and
- d. Describe ADB and NI commitments towards social protection and nutrition leading to the N4G Summit.

Partners and Target Participants

The side event is organized together with key partners from ADB's relevant sector and thematic groups (Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture), Health, Education, Gender Equity, and Social Development). Experts from the International Food Policy Research Institute, and representatives from selected developing member countries (i.e., Mongolia, Indonesia, Philippines, etc.) are also invited as speakers.

Key Outputs

The discussions and materials from the side event will be uploaded to the [ADB Knowledge Events site](#), and [adb.org](#) (as needed), pending permission from the speakers. A summary report will be prepared to capture the discussions from the side event. ADB and Nutrition International will explore how best to repackage the summary report and the materials into online articles which can be posted in [ADB Blogs](#) and/or [Development Asia](#) and cross-linked with NI-managed outreach platforms.

² Including food vouchers, conditional and unconditional cash transfers, food baskets and public works

Agenda

Time	Activities
	<p>Moderator: Shiulie Ghosh, <i>International Moderator and Broadcast Journalist</i></p>
<p>10:00-10:25</p>	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Remarks</p> <p>Bambang Susantono, <i>Vice-President Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank (ADB)</i></p> <p>Joel Spicer, <i>President and CEO, Nutrition International</i></p>
<p>10:25-11:10</p>	<p>Main Session</p> <p>Presentation 1: Framing the Scene Deanna Olney, <i>Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI</i></p> <p>Presentation 2: Voices from the Frontlines: Social Protection Interventions in Mongolia Enkhtsetseg Byambaa, <i>Professor at the National University of Mongolia</i></p> <p>Presentation 3: Voices from the Frontlines: Social Protection Interventions in Indonesia Vivi Yulaswati, <i>Senior Adviser to the Minister of National Development Planning for Social Affairs and Poverty Reduction, Government of Indonesia</i></p> <p>Presentation 4: Voices from the Frontlines: Nutrition Security and Social Protection Interventions in the Philippines Fermin Adriano, <i>Under Secretary for Policy and Planning, Department of Agriculture, Philippines</i></p>
<p>11:10-11:45</p>	<p>Q & A, Reflections and Discussion</p>
<p>11:45-12:00</p>	<p>Closing Session</p> <p>Remarks</p> <p>Qingfeng Zhang, <i>Chief, Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group, concurrently, OIC, Chief Environment Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)</i></p>

Contacts

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