



World Vegetable Center

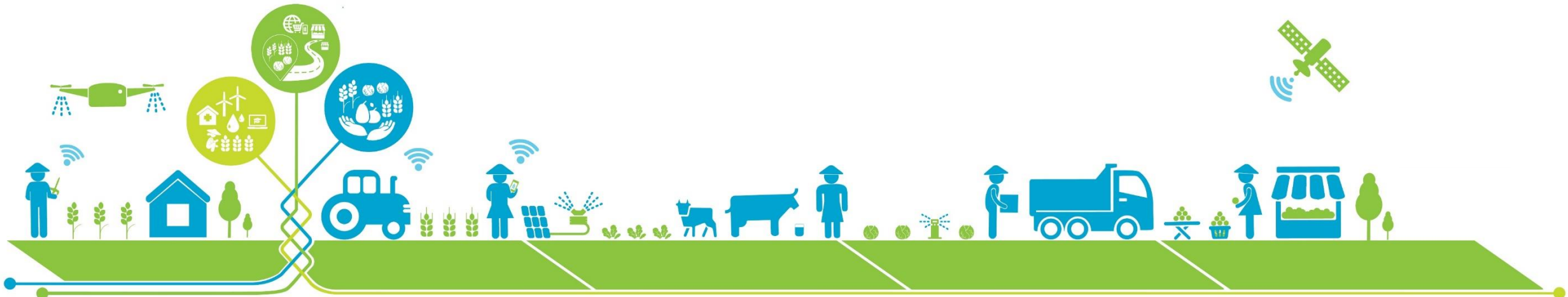
Asia-Pacific Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2022

Battling Climate Change and Transforming Agri-food Systems

22-24 March 2022

Britta Schumacher

Sr. Regional Nutrition Advisor , World Food Program Asia & Pacific





**Linking food systems, social protection and health
to enable healthy diets and good nutrition for those who need it most
in Asia Pacific Region**

Per capita cost and non-affordability of diets across selected countries in Asia *

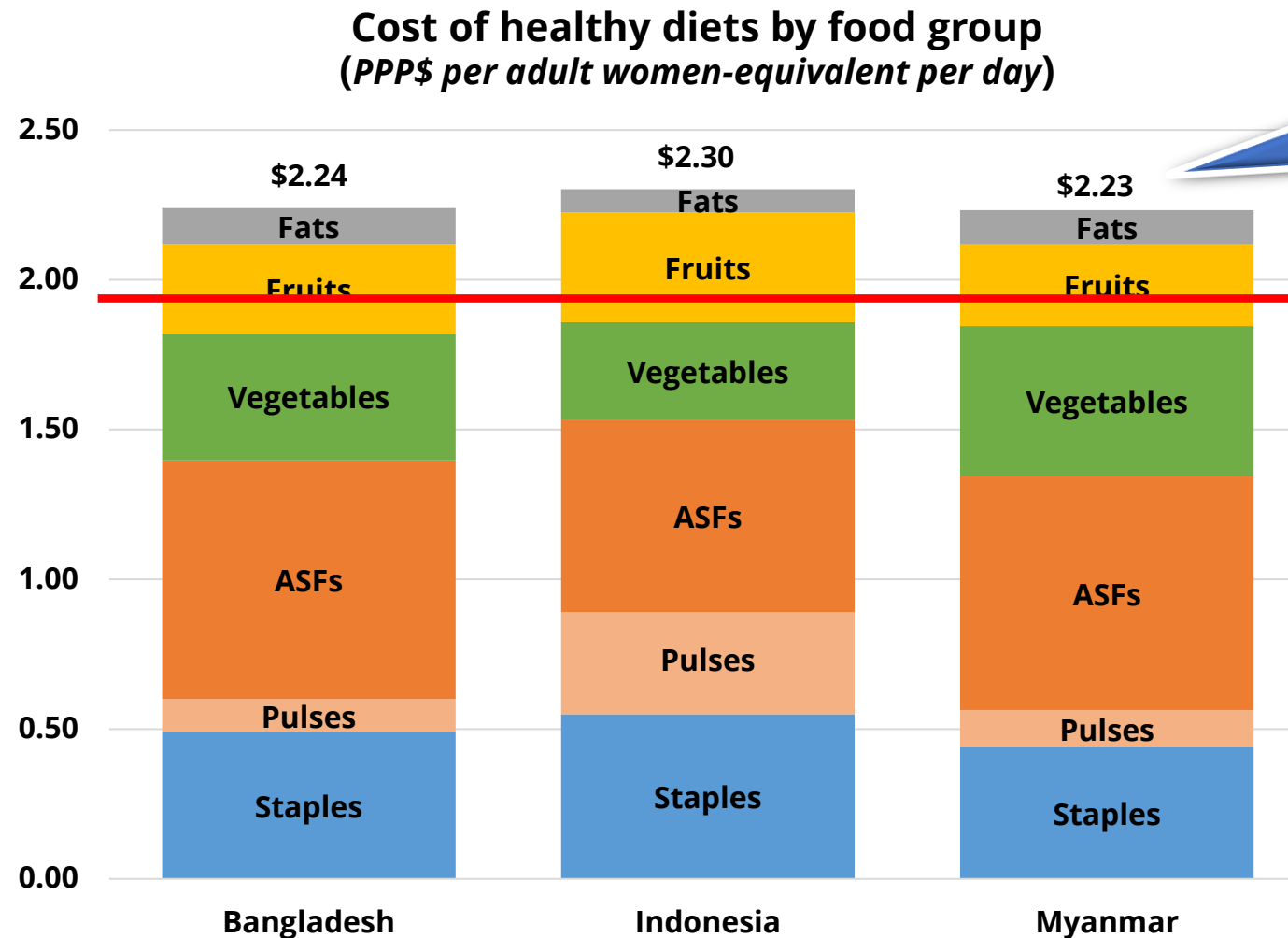
THREE INCREASING LEVELS OF DIET QUALITY



	Cost of Diet (USD)	Population cannot afford (%)
HEALTHY DIET includes foods from several food groups and has greater diversity within food groups 	4.13	58%
NUTRIENT ADEQUATE DIET meets required levels of all essential nutrients 	2.24	21%
ENERGY SUFFICIENT DIET meets needs for short-term subsistence	0.90	1%

*Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, PDR Lao, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Fiji.
 (Certain countries were excluded due to lack of data: Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, DPRK, Vanuatu)

The daily costs of healthy diets exceed the international poverty line – *examples from Bangladesh , Myanmar , Indonesia*



Cost of healthy diet similar across countries but always 20% higher than \$1.90 poverty line

\$1.90 international poverty line
(World Bank)

C19 increased the % of population who could not afford a healthy diet by 12%-15% points in these countries

Source : Impacts of C19 on Poverty, Food Security and Nutrition (IFPRI 2021)

Pakistan's Ehsaas Nashonuma Project (ENP)

-Linking poverty alleviation and nutrition for the poorest-

ENP components

Expansion of the ENP is ongoing (supported by ADB):

- Currently, the ENP serves 260,000 beneficiaries
- The GOP/WFP is planning expansion to reach 1.5 million women and children in 131 districts by mid 2024

Enablers for a more nutrition-sensitive Ehsaas program (Nashonuma)

Strong **commitment** to Nutrition by the Government of Pakistan at high level

Evidence: Landmark studies (Cost of Hunger and Fill the Nutrient Gap) highlighted the socio-economic cost of malnutrition, nutrient gaps and non-affordability of nutritious diets (malnutrition cost Pakistan USD 7.6 billion annually, 2/3 non affordability)

Prioritization and targeting: Recognition of the opportunity of social protection programs to address the affordability and nutrient gaps and prioritise the poorest, and women and children

Policy dialogues: Initiation of the policy framework to address the issues multi-sectorally

Engagement with private sector for use of locally produced specialised food for young children PLW

Model design & testing (cash + SNF + other services) with evidence to inform scale up

Enabling: Creation of enabling food environment for commercialization of specialised nutritious food to serve larger population

Cash transfers



Awareness sessions on maternal, infant, and young child nutrition and hygiene practices.



Provision of SNFs to PLW and children under the age of two.



Antenatal and postnatal care services, routine child growth monitoring & immunization.



Conditional cash stipends in addition to transfers.

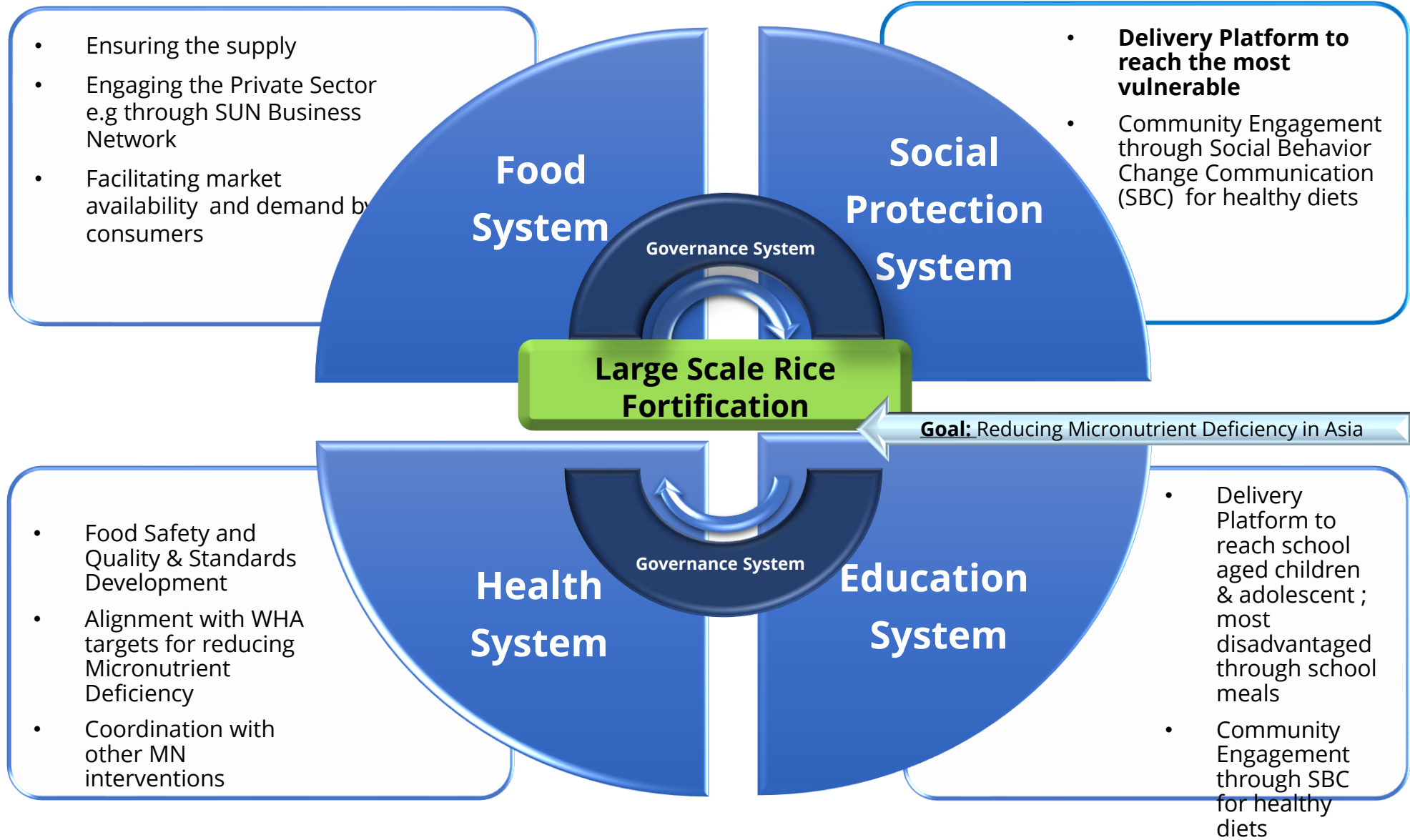
New components



Social and Behaviour Change communication (SBCC) and links to Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM)

Multiple sector involvement in rice fortification to reduce micronutrient deficiencies in Asia for those who need it most

South Asia
 Bangladesh
 Bhutan
 India
 Nepal
 Sri Lanka



South East Asia
 Cambodia
 Indonesia
 Laos
 Myanmar
 Philippines
 Timor Leste

Potential to reach at least 860 mill people in these countries by 2025 with fortified rice from 23 mill now