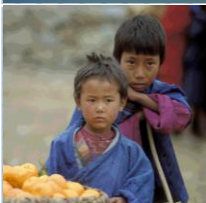


2012

Annual Report

South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative

Fostering Cross-Cutting Action



SAFANSI
The World Bank Group
4/15/2012



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Abbreviations

9FYP	Ninth Five-Year Plan	LANSA	Linking Agriculture and Nutrition in South Asia
AAA	Analytical and Advisory Activities		
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy	LGD	Local Government Division
		LHW	Lady Health Worker
APRPRP	Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Project	LIS	Low-Income States
		M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
ARD	Agriculture and Rural Development	MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
ASHAs	Accredited Social Health Activists		
AWP	Annual Work Program	MDG	Millennium Development Goal
AWWs	Aanganwadi Workers	MDM	Mid Day Meal Scheme
BDF	Bangladesh Development Forum	MGNREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
BFV	Baby Friendly Village		
BHU	Basic Health Units	MI	Micronutrient Initiative
BNNC	Bangladesh National Nutrition Council	MIC	Middle Income Country
CAF	Care for Afghan Families	MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
CAS	Country Assistance Strategy	MIS	Management and Information Systems
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics	MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
CCF	Community Challenge Fund	MoAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfers	MOCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
CIP	Country Investment Plan	MoCs	Ministry of Commerce and Supplies
CMU	Country Management Unit	MOE	Ministry of Education
CPS	Country Partnership Strategy	MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
CSO	Civil Society Organization	MOHP	Ministry of Health and Population
CSO	Central Statistic Office	MoLD	Ministry of Local Development
DDC	District Development Committees	MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
DEC	Development Economics Research Group	MoRD	Ministries of Rural Development
DFID	Department for International Development	MPPW	Ministry of Physical Planning and Works
DoPH	Department of Public Health	MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
DP	Development Partner		
DRF	Dr. Ready's Foundation	MST	Multisectoral Simulation Tool
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education	NAGA	Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis
FAO	UN Food and Agricultural Organization	NAPWA	National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security		
GAFSP	Global Agriculture & Food Security Program	NDCCs	Nutrition and Day Care Centers
		NFSM	National Food Security Mission
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition	NIH	US National Institute of Health
GHI	Global Hunger Index	NIN	National Institute of Nutrition
GIS	Geographic Information System	NLRP/M	National Rural Livelihoods Programme/Mission
GoA	Government of Afghanistan		
GON	Government of Nepal	NNS	National Nutrition Services
GOP	Government of Pakistan	NPC	National Planning Commission
HDN	Human Development Network	NRVA	National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
HKI	Helen Keller International	PDS	Public Distribution System
HNP	Health, Nutrition and Population	PHFI	Public Health Foundation of India
ICDS	Industry Council for Development Services	PINS	Pakistan Integrated Nutrition Strategy
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services	PREM	Poverty Reduction and Economic Management
ICT	Information & Communication Technology		
IDA	International Development Association	PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
IEG	Independent Evaluation Group	PSUs	Program Support Units
IFC	International Finance Corporation	RAS	Regional Assistance Strategy on Nutrition
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute	RCH	Reproductive and Child Health programs
		RHC	Rural Health Centers
IIDS	Institute for Integrated Development Studies	REACH	Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Under-nutrition
IMR	Infant mortality Rate	RGoB	Royal Government of Bhutan
ISN	Interim Strategy Note	RMT	Regional Management Team
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding	SAFANSI	South Asian Food and Nutrition Security Initiative
IYCN	Infant and Young Child Nutrition		
JAS	Joint Assistance Strategy	SAFANSI MA	SAFANSI Modifiable Adequacy
JCS	Joint Cooperation Strategy	SAFANSI MST	SAFANSI Multi-sectoral Simulation Tool
JMP	Joint Monitoring Program	SAR	South Asia Region
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice		

SAR DM	South Asia Region Development Marketplace on Nutrition	TA	Technical Assistance
SASDA	South Asia Agriculture and Rural Development	TAC	SAFANSI Technical Advisory Committee
SASEP	South Asia, Economic Policy Unit	TANDI - II	Tackling Agriculture and Nutrition Disconnect in India - II
SC	Scheduled Castes	TFR	Total Fertility Rate
SO	Social Observatory	TTL	Task Team Leader
SSNP	Social Safety Net Project	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
STs	Scheduled Tribes	USAID	US Agency for International Development
SUN	Scaling-Up Nutrition Initiative	VDP	Village Development Plan
SUNITA	Scaling Up Nutrition Initiative Technical Assistance (Nepal)	VHND	Village Health and Nutrition Day
SWAp	Sector-Wide Approach	VO	Village Organizations
		WFP	UN World Food Programme
		WHO	UN World Health Organization

Executive Summary

Substantial progress has been achieved with the seed money provided for SAFANSI and we are beginning to see a level of interest in the Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) agenda that has never before been seen in South Asia. A growing dialogue with the governments, ministries and development partners in each South Asian country has enabled this drive for greater Food and Nutrition Security.

SAFANSI is utilizing a political economy approach to gradually enhancing the commitment of governments and Development Partners to more effective FNS programs. In order to accomplish this, SAFANSI is strategically utilizing a “soft-approach” that pervades its work. Because of the nature of this advocacy work and the length of the policy process, SAFANSI teams are engaging with stakeholders on the sidelines to garnish an understanding and commitment to this important agenda. Through this approach SAFANSI teams are gaining an understanding of (i) the significance of power relations within, and between, the relevant sectors of vested interests, and (ii) the way in which this links to national political processes for reforming the broadly defined “malnutrition policy” agenda. This *soft approach* feeds into the design of a strategic communications strategy that helps guide the implementation of nutrition policy reforms in SAR.

An essential aspect of the political economy-based approach is the ‘non-linear’ nature of progress, especially as key resource persons – at times, governments – change. Fortunately SAFANSI efforts are able, in some measure, to support continuity of dialogue through this process.

In Nepal, for example, the process of creating the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan of Action, supported by SAFANSI, has been continued through successive changes in government. The continued focus on FNS as a priority agenda, which transcends political lines testifies to the advantages of this flexible approach.

The importance of process – which can sometimes take long – needs to be fully appreciated. In many SAFANSI country engagements (especially Afghanistan), even though the development of the nutrition action plan required more time than initially planned (and in some cases is still ongoing), the additional time invested was crucial to supporting a consensual process wherein, (i) roles and responsibilities of key ministries could be clarified within the action framework, (ii) discussions with other ministries could take place to understand their role in the landscape of FNS activities, and (iii) a larger dialogue could be undertaken with the development partners.

There is also increasing evidence that demand for analytic work and technical assistance is building off of prior SAFANSI advocacy engagements and workshops, which is indicative of increasing government commitment. New client demand for

AAA work has recently been commissioned on ***Informing the debate on current grain procurement policies for better food security and nutrition in Pakistan¹***, which follows from the SAFANSI-supported Roundtable Discussion on Agriculture and Water held on 8-9 March 2011. In Nepal and Afghanistan similar developments have led to increasing demand for analytical work and TA.

In addition to maintaining our ongoing tasks (and adjusting them where necessary), SAFANSI is in the process of implementing a series of newly identified tasks (as reported in the AWP), which can help fill valuable capacity/knowledge gaps and enable policy makers and development partners to fill the actions deficit in the region. These include;

- The development of a vigorous national platform for stewardship of the FNS agenda in both Bhutan and Pakistan.
- The support of several existing flagship programs in India (i.e. ICDS and NRLP) that enables their expansion in scope to cover FNS issues. These will serve as the platforms for a multi-sectoral engagement and delivery system as is in line with the World Bank's Country Assistance Strategy.
- Furthermore, the SAFANSI Secretariat has commissioned additional work on some SAFANSI-identified knowledge gaps in order to better understand the problematic causes of, and solutions to, malnutrition in South Asia, including such sectors and themes as: water & sanitation coverage, public works programs, community-managed healthcare systems (through a Gender-sensitive lens), M&E for FNS outcomes, and FNS service delivery in Tribal/Conflict Affected areas.
- SAFANSI is also sponsoring a fundamental rethinking of how the measurement of FNS; this exercise will build off of the existing SAFANSI MA and MST work detailed in this report.
- Lastly, SAFANSI will continue to advance its advocacy campaigns through an assortment of multimedia, most notably through a nutrition video that is now being developed for Sri Lanka.

SAFANSI has also particularly taken a priority focus on improving Gender equity for nutrition outcomes. **The Bank fully recognizes, that a significant factor which has the potential to make a lasting contribution to reducing hunger and malnutrition – and one that has not received sufficient attention in national action – is gender inequality.** SAFANSI not only recognizes that gender pervades the Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) issue, but gender often forms the very core of many of our

¹ This new work is being financed through Poverty and Social Impact Analyses (PSIA) funds.

activities. Paradoxically, this creates an odd situation in reporting on the "gender dimension" of work since almost all of our work is focused (in some form or another) on this key variable.

Most notably, SAFANSI has just concluded an extensive and consultative process on ***Gender and Nutrition Mapping*** in South Asia to target adolescent girls and mothers in order to break down the complex layers by which gender impacts trans-generational nutrition pathways. SAFANSI is also utilizing partnerships within the Bank to feed off of another multi-donor trust fund, the South Asia Gender Initiative (SAGE).

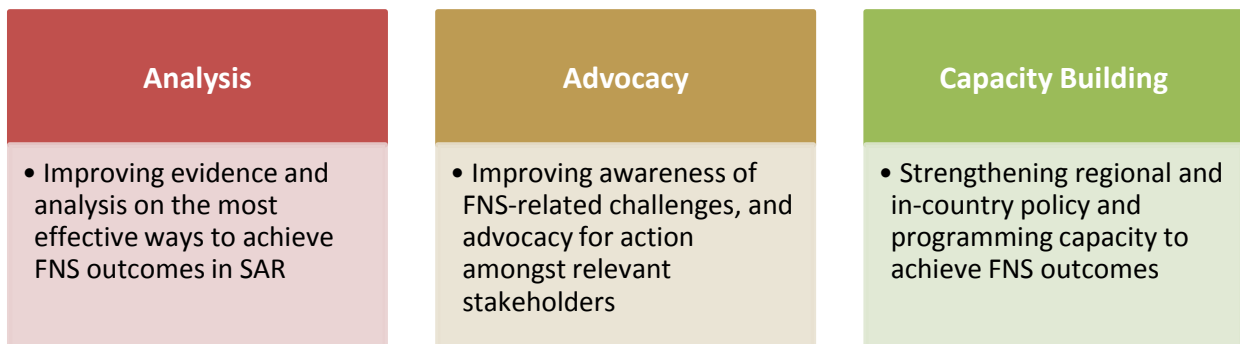
Partnering with other such initiatives, organizations and development partners will remain a key component of the SAFANSI strategy as it aims to increase development effectiveness in line with the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*. To date SAFANSI has taken substantial root in this Food and Nutrition policy arena as it has utilized such partnerships throughout South Asia. However, SAFANSI's greatest resource has been leveraging the Bank's position as a trusted broker of knowledge and resources to **provide the type of technical assistance needed to achieve measurable results in South Asia**. Although, *organic* Domestic Stewardship of the agenda is still in the process of initiating, it is becoming more apparent that this relatively small investment has produced a momentum that has potential to become the tipping point for nutrition in South Asia.

Program Background

The South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFANSI) was established on 15 March 2010 as a multi-donor trust fund to be administered by the World Bank. It is currently financed by both AusAID and DFID. As Trustee and Administrator, the World Bank is responsible for program development, implementation, and monitoring & evaluation.

SAFANSI was formed to address the South Asian Enigma—how chronic malnutrition remains intractable despite high economic growth—by ***fostering the cross-cutting actions that will lead to measurable improvements in food and nutrition security***. To this end, SAFANSI is enabling stakeholder platforms that can operationalize cross-sectoral action and enable more effective domestic stewardship of the food and nutrition security agenda. The ultimate objective of SAFANSI is to increase the commitment of governments and development partners to more effective and integrated food and nutrition-related policies and investments. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – comprising experts from each of the region’s countries and representatives from the Donors – provides guidance and advice on SAFANSI’s strategic goals and direction.

SAFANSI has identified three pillars that form the core of the SAFANSI strategy. These actionable thrust areas will be the supporting *pillars* of SAFANSI’s objective. All financed activities will pertain to one or more of these three core pillars:



Overview:

The activities included in this Annual Report have aimed to directly implement the SAFANSI objective by dramatically enhancing the basis for more integrated and effective action on Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) through institutional platforms, individual/group capacities, awareness, and evidence in the various countries of the region. To this end, SAFANSI's work aims to *foster the cross-cutting actions* that will lead to measurable improvements in Food and Nutrition Security.

SAFANSI Program Approach:

The target audiences of this SAFANSI strategic approach are the (a) high-level policy and decision makers in the region; (b) development partners; and (c) the policy groups, civil-society organizations and opinion/decision-makers. As a corporate prerogative, SAFANSI is taking steps to incorporate certain best-practice elements in all of its work, including, but not limited to: prioritizing gender and socially-excluded communities; encouraging coherence and coordination among countries and among development agencies in line with the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*; and promoting participatory involvement of the countries and its leaders. To this end, SAFANSI is enabling stakeholder platforms that can operationalize cross-sectoral action and enable more effective domestic stewardship of the FNS agenda.

A “rolling plan” process has been in place and will continue to be utilized to allow SAFANSI to be responsive to emerging needs and opportunities. In addition to the tasks reported in the current year's Annual Work Program (AWP), a number of other activities will be developed to address the continually changing political economy environment in South Asia, which has proven challenging and needful of an adaptive strategy. Additional activities are being explored and ongoing ones are being adjusted to fit current needs (maturation of these plans, in some cases, depends upon specific local circumstances – e.g., imminent national-level meetings on FNS, changes in the constitution, etc. – and other dynamics). For more information consult the SAFANSI Annual Work Plan FY12.

Country Context

Most importantly, it is necessary to note that all SAFANSI activities are developed in line with the Bank's Country Assistance Strategies, their midterm update reports (where available), and some auxiliary consultative reports. The Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) - also called in some cases Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) or Joint Assistance Strategy (JAS) - lays out a selective program of World Bank Group support for a particular country. This strategy is developed by Bank staff in meetings with government officials, in consultation with country authorities, civil society organizations, development partners and other stakeholders. It takes as a



starting point the country's own long-term vision for development and takes into account the Bank Group's comparative advantages in the context of other donor activities. The strategy is designed to promote collaboration and coordination among development partners in a country. Additionally, **the Bank has produced a Regional Assistance Strategy (RAS) for Nutrition in South Asia, which helps define the sectoral context of the FNS problem for the region as a whole.**

The value addition of many SAFANSI program activities are well-framed within this country context and strategy. Given the Bank's orientation to client-driven development, SAFANSI is following much of what has been laid out in these documents. For example, the India CAS calls for strong engagement in the seven low-income states, and so SAFANSI has taken the prerogative to support these states within the context of several flagship programs.

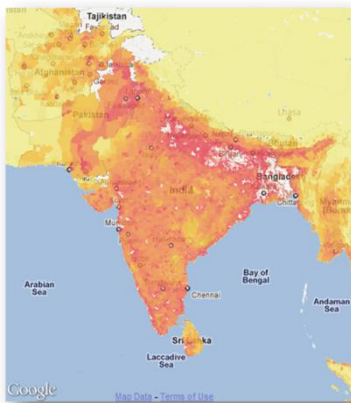
South Asia Regional Assistance Strategy for Nutrition (RAS), 2010-2015

In order to respond to the alarmingly high rates of child malnutrition in South Asia, its severe consequences, and the multi-sectoral nature of its determinants, the World Bank's South Asia Regional Management Team (RMT) adopted nutrition as a regional priority. The RMT also identified the need for a framework that would ensure that the region maintains and delivers on its results-oriented approach, and hence a proposal was made to produce a *Regional Assistance Strategy for Nutrition*. After extensive consultations at the country and regional levels – with different sectors – a Regional Assistance Strategy (RAS) for nutrition was produced.

The overall objective of the RAS is to guide the expansion of scale, scope and impact of the region's work program on nutrition, while building commitment to and capacity for a multi-sectoral response to the nutrition crisis in the South Asia. RAS is expected to meet its objective through attaining four key results:

- (i) Improved awareness and commitment by Bank staff (TTLs, SAR management, CMUs) and clients to addressing maternal and child nutrition;
- (ii) Increased World Bank lending for operations aimed at improving maternal and child nutrition;
- (iii) Increased World Bank funding/management of analytical work to address knowledge gaps in maternal and child nutrition;
- (iv) Successful implementation of a multi-sectoral convergence model project aimed at improving child nutrition indicators.

Over the last year, South Asia *Regional Assistance Strategy for Nutrition* have contributed positively in creating a context for scaling up nutrition in the region that is far more favorable than in the past. The progress made since the beginning



of 2010 is significant and characterized by a joint commitment and accountability for achieving a measurable impact on nutrition in the region; a major part of this progress was supported by SAFANSI. The Bank is actively engaging with governments in the client countries and with development partners in various sectors to diagnose gaps, needs and opportunities to maximize the impact of nutrition programs. SAFANSI is itself using and promoting this RAS as a guiding instrument in its own strategy in order to strength the institutional framework for nutrition in South Asia.

Political Economy:

SAFANSI is a political economy approach to gradually enhancing the commitment of governments and Development Partners to more effective FNS programs. Most all of SAFANSI's activities are intended to either influence policy makers or the way in which they receive information on the FNS issue, with the eventual aim of affecting the way in which these policy makers allocate resources for FNS programs. Some explicit activities that SAFANSI is pursuing include:

- ***Developing a Framework for Applied Political Economy Analysis of Food and Nutrition Security Issues in South Asia:*** This activity is leading the path to a groundbreaking overhaul of how we enable the currents of change in the given political economy.
- ***Pakistan Roundtable Discussion on Agriculture and Water:*** This work has funded – at a critical point in time – the beginning of a platform that has enabled the dialogue on Food and Nutrition to grow within the national (and provincial) forum for Agriculture.
- ***Visualizing the ‘invisible’ epidemic of under-nutrition in Sri Lanka:*** Developing such advocacy tools lend directly to an emotional appeal for support, not only amongst the policy-makers to which this will be targeted, but also to the stakeholders and constituents.
- ***South Asia Gender and Nutrition Mapping:*** This program aims to increase commitment to Food and Nutrition security by mapping out the ongoing interventions, research priorities and commitment levels of the key stakeholders in the region. The objective is to contribute to the shift from making the case for nutrition and FNS interventions to setting the stage for multi-sectoral actions in those fields for South Asia.
- ***South Asia Development Marketplace on Nutrition:*** These grass-roots initiatives have not only been useful in developing effective FNS models, but will also crucially serve as a useful advocacy tool through a “home-grown” solutions approach to sensitizing key stakeholders.



Furthermore, a consensual dialogue with the governments, ministries and development partners in each South Asian country has been both *narrowing the focus* and *enhancing the drive* of the FNS policy agenda. Such political economy engagements are actively producing progress in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, and Pakistan. Additional efforts are underway in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. To be effective in this objective, SAFANSI is strategically utilizing a “soft-approach” that pervades its work. Because of the nature of this advocacy work and the length of the policy dialogue process, SAFANSI teams are engaging with stakeholders on the sidelines to garnish an understanding and commitment to this important agenda. Through this approach SAFANSI teams are gaining an understanding of the significance of power relations within, and between, the relevant sectors of vested interests and the way in which this links to national political processes for reforming the broadly defined “malnutrition policy” agenda. This *soft approach* feeds into the design of a strategic communications strategy that helps guide the implementation of nutrition policy reforms in SAR.

Gender:

A significant factor that has the potential to make a lasting contribution to reducing hunger, and one that has not received sufficient attention is gender inequality. Since at least 1994, gender inequity has been well recognized as perhaps the strongest driver of malnutrition in South Asia and yet it remains a key challenge to be overcome. Women play a crucial role in areas of food, health, care and are also responsible for a substantial portion of global food production. However in South Asia, women typically tend to have weaker control over household resources, tighter time constraints, less access to information and health services, and lower self-esteem. Their lack of power and choice in the household impairs their abilities to make decisions about their children’s health, nutrition and education, and also prevents them from accessing the services they need to protect their own health, nutrition and survival. This, in turn, affects their children’s birth weights and growth, as well as the kind of care they receive.



SAFANSI not only recognizes that gender pervades the Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) issue, but gender often forms the very core of many of our activities. Paradoxically, this creates an odd situation in reporting on the “gender dimension” of work since almost all of our work is focused (in some form or another) on this key variable. Nonetheless, some of our work has particularly new and innovative gender dimensions, which are particularly notable, including;

- ***Social Observatory for Rural Food and Nutrition Security in the National Rural Livelihoods Mission:*** An ambitious new Social Observatory that will fund the identification of integrated gender-smart policies for FNS by



leveraging the integrated and gender-focused nature of the NRLM/P in India;

- ***Child Nutritional Outcomes and Community Based Health Service Provision:*** A bold pilot evaluation in Pakistan that will test whether the empowerment of women in the decision making of community-based health service expenditures brings about greater improvements in children's nutritional outcomes;
- ***Assessment of the relation between mortality and morbidity due to diarrheal diseases and sanitation coverage:*** A much needed study on women's hand washing and sanitation behaviors in Bangladesh that will shed light on ways in which diarrheal incidence (and therefore malnutrition) can be contained;
- ***Improving Food Security in Tribal and Conflict-affected Areas:*** A resolute appraisal of how best to link women and empowerment in Tribal/Conflict affected areas to achieve greater FNS outcomes, which assumingly can have wide-ranging effects in reducing conflict in this aggravated region; and
- ***Evaluating the nutritional impacts of food security and nutrition programs:*** a) *Impact evaluation of the "-9+24" Community Challenge Fund* and b) *Impacts of public works schemes on women and children:* A truly multi-sectoral assessment of the public works schemes in Nepal to understand if women, nursing mothers and their children are positively impacted by government programs.
- ***South Asia Development Marketplace on Nutrition:*** SAFANSI is also continually eager to support the gender-sensitive, local innovations sponsored through the Bank's Development Marketplace on Nutrition; all of which focus on mothers care for infant and young child nutrition.

Furthermore, SAFANSI will continue to focus its ***South Asia Gender and Nutrition Mapping*** to target adolescent girls and mothers in order to break down the complex layers by which gender impacts trans-generational nutrition pathways. Nutrient deficiencies suffered *in utero* are exacerbated by the low age of first pregnancy in the region. This linkage will be used to leverage gender's strategic position in the complex FNS equation for the improvement of nutrition indicators in many SAFANSI/Bank activities.

Knowledge Management and Communications:

A goal of SAFANSI is to promote evidence-based decision making on cross-sectoral approaches FNS. This assumes a rigorous knowledge management and communications strategy to:

- (i) Consolidate knowledge on the scope of the problem in the region and on good practices that could be adopted;
- (ii) Identify knowledge gaps that can be filled through SAFANSI-financed activities;
- (iii) Ensure the quality of the knowledge produced by SAFANSI grant recipients;
- (iv) Translate the knowledge into clear and concise messages, targeted to priority audiences; and
- (v) Track the acceptance of the messages through media monitoring and other means.

This will allow the relevant ministries, government officials and development partners to access the information that will allow them to create coordinated actions to address the FNS issue within the greater development framework. The SAFANSI Secretariat is creating tools, products and platforms to facilitate information flow to different audiences.



*Kul Gautam,
SAFANSI Technical
Advisory Committee,
Nepal*

World Bank Knowledge Platform for FNS: The Bank's newly created Global Knowledge Platform for Food Security and Nutrition will provide a space where best practices and new findings can be discussed and exchanged. The FNS Knowledge Platform has held a workshop in March 2012 convening different groups – academia, think tanks and other international organizations active in this area – to generate better understanding on the linkage between food security and nutrition linkages. SAFANSI will engage with this convenient new platform so that our developing work program and maturing analytical work can be highlighted, shared and adjusted per the synergies of the meeting.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC):

This group of leading authorities from each country in South Asia is providing guidance on how different messages can best be marketed to specific audiences. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is a body of seven in-country leaders — including Sudarshini Fernandopulle (Sri Lanka), Kul Gautam (Nepal), Mahabub Hossain (Bangladesh), Saba Gul Khattak (Pakistan), Mohammad Taufiq Mashal (Afghanistan), Naresh C. Saxena (India), K. Srinath Reddy (India) — which advises the Bank on Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) in South Asia. Meetings of the TAC will maintain the momentum behind the advocacy agenda. They are also providing guidance on the knowledge gaps that SAFANSI can fill through its grants. It was established to foster intra-regional cooperation and learning and to enable



*Dr. Dorji Wangchuk
SAFANSI Technical
Advisory Committee,
Bhutan*

domestic stewardship of the FNS agenda. The next meeting of the TAC is expected in 2012. Attempts are being made to organize the meeting around a South-South learning exchange in either Brazil or Peru.

SAFANSI has invited a new member to join the TAC to represent Bhutan. The Minister of Health has recently confirmed the appointment of Dr. Dorji Wangchuck, Director General, Department of Public Health (DoPH). It is reported that Dr. Wangchuck has a keen interest in nutrition and would be a strong champion for the agenda in Bhutan.

Highlighted Program Achievements in Public Consultation

Bhutan



*Polymakers' Roundtable
on Health Financing
Bhutan
19 December 2011*

On 19 December 2011 the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the World Bank organized a ***Polymakers' Roundtable on Health Financing in Bhutan that was chaired by the Hon'ble Minister for Health***². The consultation was attended by over 60 senior government officials and members of parliament, and development partners.

As part of the ongoing Public Expenditure Review of the Human Development sector a joint team from the Ministry of Health and the World Bank reported findings from three policy-related health sector studies recently undertaken. These studies were a groundbreaking policy engagement with Bhutan. The World Bank team then discussed how Bhutan was faring in terms of their nutrition outcomes, and how malnutrition was affecting cognitive outcomes and future productivity of the younger generations.

The Hon'ble minister requested for World Bank technical support on tackling the challenges around maternal mortality and malnourishment in the country. Addressing this issue, a representative of the Bank announced that there were funds secured from the South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative, which would permit a comprehensive assessment of malnutrition in the country. This SAFANSI commitment has allowed the FNS agenda to be brought forward in this set of groundbreaking new engagements with Bhutan.

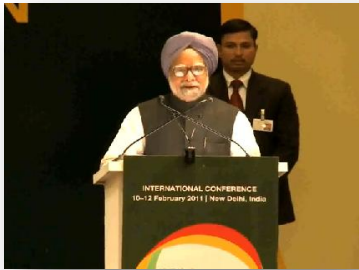
Initially this project will complete a *Comprehensive Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis* for Bhutan, which will likely be followed up by additional activities.

India

SAFANSI's support for the 2011 IFPRI conference on Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition and Health, helped finance the platform where **H.E. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister, Republic of India prominently announced his support for the FNS agenda, commenting: "The problem of hidden hunger—that is, deficiencies of essential vitamins and minerals, such as iron, Vitamin A and iodine—is also severe. Nutrition is therefore a serious challenge that has not received the attention it truly deserves."**³ SAFANSI was a major co-sponsor of this high-profile international conference. The conference proved very successful in bringing together key players from the global community in the areas of agriculture, health and nutrition, and led to a fruitful cross-fertilization of ideas and networks.

² <http://go.worldbank.org/CPW2FZW2H0>

³ http://2020conference.ifpri.info/files/2011/02/02-10-2011_inaugural_PMSingh_remarks.pdf



**H.E. Manmohan Singh,
Prime Minister, Republic of
India, Address to the
International conference on
Leveraging Agriculture for
Nutrition and Health**

Beyond co-sponsoring the Conference, SAFANSI had organized a number of high visibility side-events during the conference. The most notable of these activities was the scheduled SAFANSI presentation, which was organized around a High-Level Panel discussion on *Building a Platform for Food and Nutrition Security*⁴. Several eminent figures were featured on this panel, including Sartaj Aziz (Pakistan's former Foreign Minister in Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's cabinet), David Nabarro (UN Special Representative on Food Security and Nutrition), Chet Raj Pant (National Planning Commission Member for the Government of Nepal), K. Srinath Reddy (President of the Public Health Foundation of India), Michal Rutkowski (World Bank Sector Director of Human Development in the SAR), and Tim Wheeler (Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser and Deputy Director of Research for DFID). The event served to greatly increase the SAFANSI profile within the South Asia Region and internationally.

SAFANSI later supported the Bank's participation in the Global Conference on Women in Agriculture⁵ (GCWA) in New Delhi on March 13-15, 2012. This landmark event was the outcome of two years of intensive partnership building among the many organizations involved in GFAR, including the CGIAR, FAO and IFAD and the Regional Fora. The Conference attracted 760 participants from 50 countries, including Ministers, World Food Prize laureates, representatives of agricultural research, extension and education institutions, gender experts, non-governmental organizations and farmer's groups, who rallied in Delhi to call for collective action and investment to put the needs of women farmers at the centre of agricultural thinking and practice.

High-level policy discussions addressed the reforms and institutional changes needed for empowering women in agriculture. The World Bank was represented in the meeting through two panel presentations (Meera Shekar and Madhur Gautam), and as a chair of the session on "Role of Women in Household Food and Nutrition Security". Other thematic sessions addressed the key areas in which change is required: the empowerment of women in agriculture; agricultural innovations to reduce drudgery; linking women farmers to markets; enhancing their access to assets, resources and knowledge and the specific implications of climate change risks. These sessions highlighted the need for fundamental rethinking of agricultural systems and the new roles required of agricultural research, extension, education and enterprise.

⁴ http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=44446D497077C1F6

⁵ Organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), it was supported through the Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP) of the multi-stakeholder Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR).

Nepal

Led by the Government of Nepal (GON), a strong development partnership has emerged in the areas of food and nutrition security. **The GON has developed – in consultation with relevant development partners and stakeholders – a Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan of Action through SAFANSI financing.** Concurrently, the GON submitted an investment proposal to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)⁶ and was competitively awarded a grant of US\$ 46.5 million in June 2011. **Cross-cutting, multi-sectoral work, undertaken in the context of this Plan of Action, provided a strong basis for inclusion of the nutrition agenda in the GAFSP project design in what otherwise might have been an exclusively agricultural productivity based project.**

The GAFSP now aims to improve household food security through increased agricultural productivity, household incomes, *and* awareness about health and nutrition – specifically focused in the mid-western and far-western development regions. GAFSP funding for Nepal aims to improve food security in the poorest and most food insecure regions across three key aspects of food security – availability, access, and utilization. ***The project is likely to benefit approximately 120,000 small and marginal farmers, 50,000 young mothers, children and adolescent girls, and 25,000 agricultural wage workers.***



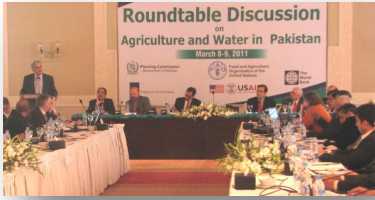
GAFSP funding will support sub-projects designed to provide dietary support, increase the supply of nutritious foods, and promote appropriate nutrition, health, and hygiene behaviors through community based programs. ***These programs will target pregnant and breast feeding women, children under two years old, and adolescent girls.*** Proposed educational activities will likely cover the source and value of nutritious food, proper utilization of available foods, the importance of sanitation, and the value of appropriate feeding practices for young children, including breast feeding infants.

The integrated agenda, espoused by the Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action, is stimulating further coordinated response from the other development partners (e.g., Asian Development Bank, USAID through *Feed the Future Initiative* and the *Suaahara* Program as well as IDA-supported *First Thousand Days* Project).

⁶ <http://www.gafspfund.org/gafsp/content/nepal>

Pakistan

On 8-9 March 2011, SAFANSI supported the *Pakistan Roundtable Discussion on Agriculture and Water* in order to introduce food and nutrition security to Government Planning. **This activity has been concluded, however the roundtable discussion has since borne fruit in demand for additional Bank services for analytical work on Food and Nutrition.** As a result of this conference, the Bank has received demand from GoP to conduct additional analytical work on Food and Nutrition Security: The work to be conducted is entitled, *Informing the current debate on current grain procurement policies for better food security and nutrition in Pakistan*⁷. The consultations for this work had begun prior to the Roundtable; however SAFANSI funding for this agenda facilitated the formal demand for the work, honed the research questions to be delivered and expedited the process. Beyond this forthcoming output, SAFANSI financing allowed for Food and Nutrition Security to be brought into this traditionally productivity based discussion. The event, while low-cost, has had a higher than average impact on the Food and Nutrition Agenda in Pakistan.



⁷ This is being financed through Poverty and Social Impact Analyses (PSIA) funds.

Development Marketplace on Nutrition Grantee Stewardship



Harnessing a Grassroots Movement for Regional Impact

SAFANSI has supported the Development Marketplace Grantees through financing **implementation support and dissemination activities**. These **SAFANSI-supported** grass-roots initiatives have not only been useful in developing effective FNS models, but are also crucially serving as a useful advocacy tool through a “home-grown” solutions approach to sensitizing key stakeholders. The stories below detail some of the dissemination activities and more crucially the impact that these grantees are having on local and national politics even after the conclusion of project implementation and the SAFANSI-financed technical assistance.

Innovate for Nutrition

A workshop entitled “Innovate for Nutrition: Experiences from Development Marketplace Projects in India” was organized jointly by the World Bank and the Institute of Home Economics, University of Delhi on December 16, 2011 at New Delhi, India. The meeting presented results of nine of the SAR DM award winning projects from India. The conference was attended by health and nutrition professionals from academia, civil society, development partners, international organizations along with representatives from both government and the private sector. The workshop provided a platform to showcase the innovations for discussing the challenges and opportunities of working with communities and using community-based approaches to improve infant and young child nutrition. This highlighted the need in India – with its many health and nutrition challenges – to adopt innovative approaches, build partnerships and foster collaboration among governments, civil society, community-based organizations, development agencies and academia.

Care for Afghan Families (Afghanistan)

From December 14 - 15, 2011, a prominent workshop was held in Kabul with the high authority of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), multiple NGOs, and the World Bank/UN agencies in order to discuss the importance of proper child feeding, equitable/healthy life styles and the urgency of chronic malnutrition in Afghanistan. Dr. Hemati, head of GCMU, opened the workshop and announced the MoPH’s willingness to support and operationalize nutrition interventions through the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS).

Dr. Asef Ghyasi from *Care for Afghan Families* (CAF) presented the findings and lesson learned of their pilot “Baby Friendly Villages” program, which was implemented in Badakhshan, Takhar and Kunduz provinces. Dr. Ghyasi noted that breastfeeding messages are difficult to convey since the subject is largely taboo to talk about openly in Afghan society. CAF is taking on a strong role as a domestic steward of this agenda by pushing for more monitoring and evaluation at all levels. SAFANSI funding will be used to produce a case study of the CAF project for further dissemination.

Prior to the workshop, the MoPH announced the results of the Afghan Mortality Survey, which showed significant improvement in maternal and child mortality rates, although there is still room for improvement. Dr. Parwiz – advisor to Preventive Medicine Directorate – presented the result of two different assessments of the nutrition components in the BPHS. The first assessment was a study of five provinces (Kabul, Nengarhar, Bamyan, Dikundi and Badakhshan) and the second assessment was based on responses of NGOs to a questionnaire from the Provincial Nutrition Department (PND). Dr. Mohammad Taufiq Mashal – General Director of Preventive Medicine Directorate / SAFANSI TAC Member – presented the message of H.E. the Minister of Public Health and assigned a technical team to work on developing an actionable framework. The PND team summarized the key recommendations of the participants and has been working with partners to develop this framework. The final version is set to be presented to the World Bank and Development Partners to ensure commitment for support of its implementation after approval from H.E. the Minister of Public Health.

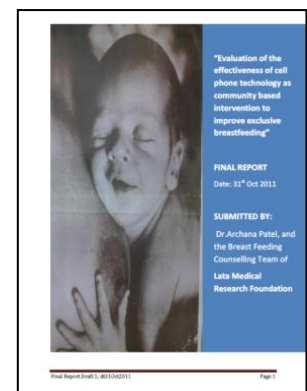


CAF has been able to leverage SAFANSI support and DM financing to gain additional support from UNICEF to scale up their project in three other provinces in Afghanistan. They have also successfully advocated with the Ministry of Public Health to pilot female community health supervisors in some parts of Afghanistan.

Lata Medical Research Foundation (India)

In December 2011 Dr. Archana Patel and Dr. Leena Dhande – investigators from the SAFANSI-supported Lata Medical Research Foundation – presented their study entitled, *“The Evaluation Of The Effectiveness Of Cell Phone Technology As Community Based Intervention To Improve Exclusive Breast Feeding & Reduce Infant Morbidity”* at the 3rd annual mHealth Summit in Washington DC.

The conference was a meeting point for leaders from government, NGOs, and entrepreneurs from the across the



mHealth network (including Medical, Software, Mobile companies). With more than 3500 participants representing 350 agencies from over 50 countries, the mHealth summit was an ideal platform for exploring, examining, and debating the ways in which mobile technology can transform healthcare delivery, research, business and policy for the 21st Century in underserved communities.



Lata's work highlighted their ground-breaking health research which utilizes mobile technologies for both clinical medicine and public health outcomes, including; cardiovascular disease management, emergency response strategy, and particularly *maternal & child health*. Their presentation provided an emphasis on the importance of exclusive breast feeding to reduce infant morbidity, mortality and malnutrition in India, which maintains the highest number of malnourished children under-five in the world. Conveniently, India also has one of the largest cell phone subscriber rates in the world with cheap, user-friendly plans. In this context, the Lata identified cell phone-based lactation counseling as an innovative intervention to improve the otherwise dismal rates of malnutrition prevalent in India. Lata's project was able to show substantial improvements in exclusive breast feeding rates (over 95%) in pregnant women from these socioeconomically marginalized target groups. Lata has produced a paper that describes the methodology, results and potential of this model.⁸

Society for the Elimination of Rural Poverty (India)

The Society for the Elimination of Rural Poverty – represented by Lakshmi Durga Chava – was invited to present at the World Bank's Innovation Days event, held at the Bank's Headquarters in Washington, DC from June 6 – 8, 2011. The grantee explained the innovation in their pilot IYCN programs. SERP has developed an enterprise model for addressing malnutrition among vulnerable and poor communities through Nutrition and Day Care Centers (NDCCs). The model leverages community architecture of Self Help Groups and their Federations to deliver MDGs relating to health and nutrition. The Nutrition Center is primarily a community owned and community driven initiative. The poverty reduction model is a holistic approach which works on both reducing the vulnerability and increasing income generation opportunities for the poor women in rural Andhra Pradesh. SERP has had a very close level of involvement with both the National Rural Livelihoods Project and the government in Andhra Pradesh. They have



*Interview with
Lakshmi Durga Chava,
Society for the Elimination
of Rural Poverty*

⁸ SAFANSI has also produced an interactive video for Lata:
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/0,,contentMDK:23121047~pagePK:146736~piPK:146830~theSitePK:223547,00.html>

implemented their project in coordination with government efforts and have been able to achieve greater impact as a result.

Dr. Reddy's Foundation (India)

On November 24, 2011, Dr. Reddy's Foundation (DRF) in conjunction with the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), convened key policy makers and business leaders in Hyderabad at a workshop to present the results of their South Asia Regional Development Marketplace (SAR DM) pilot program on an integrated Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) model to improve food and nutrition security of children from migrant families living on construction sites.



*Dr. Reddy's Foundation
Dissemination Seminar
24 November 2011*

Supported by the SAR DM, DRF established ECCE facilities at construction sites to provide nutritious food, quality care and relevant education to mothers and children. Most importantly these centres established accessible links with government services provided through the GOI's Integrated Child Development Services Scheme and the primary health care system. These centres have demonstrated that low-cost, special approaches are required to ensure access to quality services. The results of this pilot highlight the tremendous importance of such projects and the impact that appropriate safeguards for project preparation can have on nutrition outcomes. The workshop was set up to share the lessons learnt and to emphasize one extremely important fact "that transient lifestyle of the migrants from rural to urban should not be looked at as an impediment for covering migrant children under central government sponsored universal nutrition and immunization programmes."

This meeting marked an important step towards institutionalizing possible ways to ensure that this vulnerable group is not left out by the system, and get adequate care and support facilities that integrate meeting their nutritional needs at construction sites. It was apparent that this workshop was as much about advocacy as it was about dissemination. The workshop was attended by over 40 participants from civil society, public institutions, development agencies and government; including, Mobile Creches, MS Swaminathan Foundation, UNICEF, World Bank, MARG, Public Health Foundation of India, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, Food and Nutrition Board, Action Aid, NIN, and the teachers who ran the centers. The workshop even included representatives from the builders' associations or other associated bodies that need to be sensitized to the needs of these children, and how the model has demonstrated the process for making this happen. SAFANSI supported a locally-based Bank staff member to attend the conference and present some *best-practices* that have been gleaned from other Bank work.

The workshop highlighted the problems of migrant communities and provided a platform to discuss integrated strategies and approaches to address the food and nutrition security of these communities, and to come together on a common advocacy and sensitization platform for engaging with builders in the private sector, government officials and program functionaries, civil society and communities.

The Deepak Foundation (India)

The Deepak Foundation – represented by Dr. Archana Joshi and Dr. Nandini Srivastava – was invited to present at the World Bank’s Innovation Days event, held at the Bank’s Headquarters in Washington, DC from June 6 — 8, 2011. The project by Deepak Foundation is a Public Private Partnership project implemented with the Government of Gujarat through community participation covering all 1548 villages of one district (Vadodara District, Gujarat). The project objective is to improve neonatal and infant nutrition practices through inter-departmental convergence, community participation, and the innovative use of a culturally accepted tool (a horoscope that also includes critical health information on the newborn).

The Deepak Foundation also made a presentation about the project in the workshop organized jointly by the World Bank and the Institute of Home Economics (a SAR DM Grantee) held at the World Bank office in New Delhi on December 16, 2011. They developed a brochure prepared for dissemination during the workshop in Delhi and will utilize the same for dissemination to a wider audience (nearly 200 organizations/government stakeholders).

The Deepak Foundation also disseminated certain components of the project at the “2nd National Convention on Child Rights to Food”, held in Bhopal from January 20-22, 2012. Their abstract titled “Improving Young Child Nutrition through Innovative Targeted Programs”, was accepted for oral presentation at the International Conference on Millennium Development Goals Related to Reproductive Health: Status, Challenges and Future Directions held from March 18-21, 2012 in Mumbai, India. The Deepak Foundation is planning a large dissemination for their Nutrition Project in addition to the other projects they manage after the completion of data analysis and documentation.

The Deepak program also sought to raise awareness through wall paintings on nutrition/health issues, drinking water quality, etc. After the success of this information campaign, the local government in Vadodara adopted this innovation for their own behavior change and communication projects.



HELP: Health Education and Literacy Programme (Pakistan)

Malnutrition has attained crisis proportions in Pakistan with over 42% of children stunted and 31% underweight. To address this crisis, HELP — an NGO active in the promotion of health and education, with a special focus on child nutrition and women of childbearing age — has used a locally manufactured high-energy food supplement, “Nutri-HELP”, made from indigenous ingredients (dal, rice, milk, sugar and vegetable oil) to rehabilitate *severely malnourished children*. On December 13, 2011, HELP organized a seminar in Karachi to disseminate the results of their SAFANSI-supported, SAR DM project. Nutri-HELP, which contains 450 calories/100gm, was successfully used in two Union Councils of Taluka Shahdapur, four Union Councils in Tharparkar and for over 3300 children in Flood Relief camps.

Prof D.S. Akram, Hon. Chairperson of HELP and renowned pediatrician, shared the results of the project reporting that all children who were given the supplements gained weight and that over 85% of children attained normal weight over a period of five months. The cost of treatment was significantly less than that for imported therapeutic food which is currently being employed in the country. Akram further stated that the provision of optimum nutrition to a child is crucial during the “window of opportunity” period, i.e. the first 1000 days in a child’s life, from conception to 2 years of age.



*Health Education and
Literacy Programme,
Dissemination Seminar
13 December 2012*

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Khalid Shaikh – Additional Secretary, Ministry of health, Government of Sindh – appreciated HELP’s efforts to introduce a locally manufactured high-density food supplement. Dr. Shaikh noted that it is important to look for locally available and suitable alternatives for the relief of this crisis, considering the high rates of malnutrition in the country. According to the FANS survey conducted jointly by UNICEF and the Government of Sindh, malnutrition rates are more than the WHO’s emergency threshold, and yet very few other organizations in the province have the necessary experience to address this problem. Dr. Dure-Shehwar Khan – former Focal Person for Nutrition in the Government of Sindh – reiterated the fact that malnutrition figures in the country are very high and emphasized the realization that civil society organizations and NGOs should share the responsibility with the government. To rehabilitate malnourished children, UN agencies are currently using expensive, imported, ready-to-use therapeutic foods. Dr. Khan further noted, “It is important that our government looks for alternative, locally produced, low-cost products, for the management of such children.” She went on to stress the need to create awareness on breast and complementary feeding practices to counteract malnutrition amongst children. Professor S.K. Kauser from Aga Khan University shared the need to ensure that assistance to decrease food insecurity should reach the neediest in the country. She spoke of increasing disparity between the rich and poor, which she considered to have exacerbated the problem of malnutrition.

Program Activity

Over the past year, SAFANSI has planned a series of consultation workshops to build a core constituency on food and nutrition security, and to identify champions who will promote the message. SAFANSI has either supported or sent representatives to present at a number of meetings, workshops and conferences including;

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): Inaugural Meeting

The Bank convened a meeting of the TAC in 2011 to ascertain strategic directions that the Bank should take in addressing the alarming rates of malnutrition. The TAC stressed need for Gender inclusion, Political Economy Reform, and simple yet effective means for conveying information (using social media) to the necessary policy makers at different levels. The TAC also favored a Life-Cycle approach, which starts with interventions that target adolescent girls and pregnant women, and then addresses infant and child feeding, child growth, schooling, nutrition/health education, etc. They further stressed the need to develop a holistic, multi-sectoral action plan that can harmonize and coordinate the responses of donors with the government and other key players. Using this guidance, SAFANSI is developing a multi-sectoral action plan in several South Asian countries in order to complement the Bank's Regional Assistance Strategy for Nutrition in South Asia.



Address to the 2011 World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings, Kul Gautam, SAFANSI Technical Advisory Committee, Nepal

World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings:

Ensuring Nutrition and Food Security for Results in South Asia

SAFANSI supported a special event on nutrition during World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings. The session is entitled Ensuring Nutrition and Food Security for Results in South Asia⁹. On the September 23, 2011, the World Bank South Asia region convened the Annual Meeting delegates from the South Asia region, together with development partners, civil society and the media to discuss why Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka cannot further delay addressing malnutrition if these countries want to achieve higher growth rates and reduce poverty. The objective for this session was to have delegates recognize that investing in improving nutrition is necessary to achieving increased economic growth and poverty reduction.

The event was an unprecedented opportunity to consider the role of nutrition in development, and to have the World Bank's regional leadership table such an issue with this audience. At the same time, there is recognition that many South Asian

⁹Short Nutrition Clip:

http://www.kaltura.com/index.php/kwidget/cache_st/1321894265/wid/_619672/uiconf_id/6211452/entry_id/1_0lc0c5zr

Long Nutrition Clip:

http://www.kaltura.com/index.php/kwidget/cache_st/1320365467/wid/_619672/uiconf_id/6130282/entry_id/1_w2w7bb2e

policy makers do not fully appreciate the degree to which malnutrition exacerbates poverty and poor learning outcomes, nor are they all fully convinced that malnutrition will not simply be resolved through untargeted broader poverty reduction initiatives.

The session started with opening remarks from Ms. Isabel Guerrero, Vice-President of South Asia Region, World Bank, and speakers included; Ms. Kalpana Kochhar, Chief Economist, South Asia, World Bank, Mr. Santiago Levy, Vice President for Sectors and Knowledge, Inter-American Development Bank, Mr. Kul Gautam former Assistant Secretary General of the UN and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Mr. Memood Khan, CEO of Pepsico's Global Nutrition Group, and Ms. Diane Jacovella Vice President Multilateral and Global Programs, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Knowledge, Tools and Lessons for Informing the Design and Implementation of Food Security Strategies in Asia

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS) organized an International Technical Workshop, from November 14-16, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal. The SAFANSI Program Manager was invited to attend in order to represent SAFANSI. The workshop was useful in developing a number of potential opportunities for partnership and collaboration, including some promising new engagements with IFPRI.

London Conference on Measuring the Effects of Integrated Agriculture-Health Interventions^{10,11}

On 12-13 May 2011 SAFANSI Task Team Leader, John Newman (Lead Poverty Specialist) traveled to London to present his findings to a conference hosted jointly by the *Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health* and *IFPRI*¹². Newman presented on: *Empirical associations of the adequacies of food, health and care with nutritional outcomes*. The two-day workshop brought together more than 100 people from health and agriculture communities around the world. Day one featured a discussion of existing metrics and methods together with their value and limitations and highlighted a range of case studies that illustrated the practical application of these methods in different contexts. Day two focused on practice and policy aspects of measuring food security and nutritional outcomes.



London Conference on Measuring the Effects of Integrated Agriculture-Health Interventions

¹⁰ http://www.lidc.org.uk/_assets/Metrics%20conference%202011%20report.pdf

¹¹ <http://2020conference.ifpri.info/2011/06/06/london-workshop-focuses-on-building-a-common-language-across-sectors/>

¹² <http://www.foodsec.org/web/newsevents/iss/>

The Global Conference on Women in Agriculture¹³

On 13-15 March 2012 SAFANSI representatives, Meera Shekar (Lead Health Specialist) and Madhur Gautam (Lead Economist) travelled to Delhi to present at the panel session on the *Role of Women in Household Food and Nutrition Security* at this international conference. The presentation explored the synergies between women in the agricultural sector and nutrition outcomes. A number of priorities were identified by the participants in creating a framework for action.

The Conference attracted 760 participants from 50 countries, including Ministers, World Food Prize laureates, representatives of agricultural research, extension and education institutions, gender experts, non-governmental organizations and farmer's groups, who rallied in Delhi to call for collective action and investment to put the needs of women farmers at the centre of agricultural thinking and practice. These priorities will now form the basis for wider collective action through the Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP)—a global initiative organized through GFAR and embracing all the actors involved in addressing gender-related issues in agriculture.

International Scientific Symposium on Food and Nutrition Security Information

On 17-19 January 2012 two SAFANSI Task Team Leaders travelled to the FAO in Rome to present their findings to the International Scientific Symposium on Food and Nutrition Security Information¹⁴. John Newman (Lead Poverty Specialist) presented on *Empirical associations of the adequacies of food, health and care with nutritional outcomes*. Satesh Tiwari (YP) presented on *Linking food security measures to nutritional outcomes: some evidence from Nepal*.



World Bank Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition: From Measurement to Results¹⁵

On Thursday, March 22, 2012, two SAFANSI Task Team Leaders presented their findings at a training workshop on Nutrition Metrics for World Bank staff and external participants. John Newman (Lead Poverty Specialist) presented on the *Sensitivity of Different Indices* and Emmanuel Skoufias (Lead Economist) & Satesh Tiwari (YP) will present on *The correlation of different food security indices with nutritional outcomes*. Per Pinstrup-Andersen, H.E. Babcock Professor of Food, Nutrition and Public Policy and World Food Prize Laureate, 2001, Cornell University, opened the training session.

¹³ <http://www.gcwa.in/>

¹⁴ <http://www.foodsec.org/web/newsevents/iss/>

¹⁵ <http://wbdocs.worldbank.org/wbdocs/drl/objectId/090224b0812cfea>

2011 World Bank Innovation Day

Business Unusual: Tackling Malnutrition in South Asia

On Wednesday, June 8, 2011 the South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFANSI) co-hosted a forum entitled, "Business *Unusual*: Tackling Malnutrition in South Asia" for the Bank's Innovation Days. The event featured an address by Isabel Guerrero (SAR Vice-President) and a short film that showcased SAFANSI's innovative and multi-sectoral platforms.



*Isabel M. Guerrero,
World Bank, Vice President
South Asia Region
Address to Innovation Days
Event on Nutrition*

Attendees were given the opportunity to view several related projects through interactive booth presentations and discussions. SAFANSI's booth featured an interactive presentation of its program and a variety of literature, including the most recent SAFANSI Newsletter. John Newman (Lead Poverty Specialist) demonstrated a *multi-sectoral simulation tool* and a new interactive dashboard that instantly adjusts expected results as one explores the relationships in the data. The South Asia Regional Development Marketplace on Nutrition (SAR DM) also showcased some local innovations in a publication displayed for the event.

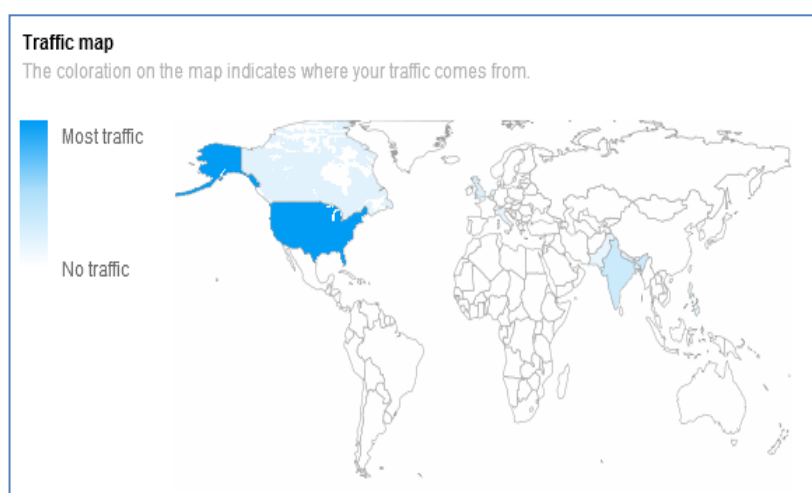
Furthermore, the SAFANSI event brought in the winners of two SAR Development Marketplace grants to explain their innovations. The Society for the Elimination of Rural Poverty, presented on their *Community-Managed Nutrition-Cum-Day Care Centers for Tribal Communities* program. The Deepak Foundation had two representatives on hand to showcase a video and answer questions about their project entitled, *Community Involvement in Promoting Neonatal and Infant Nutrition in Tribal Vadodara*. The viewing of another Bank-funded video, entitled, *An Urgent Call for Action: Undernourished Children of India*, was also arranged. Colleagues from the Bank's HNP Sector were in attendance to showcase their new Regional Assistance Strategy (RAS) on Nutrition.

Following this interactive session Michal Rutkowski (Sector Director for Human Development), Jack Stein (Sector Director for Sustainable Development), Kalpana Kochhar (Chief Economist for SAR), and Vinaya Swaroop (Advisor for SASEP), were invited to participate in a short panel discussion on Food and Nutrition Security and the Bank's innovations in that regard. It was estimated that approximately 75-100 people were in attendance.



SAFANSI Loop Newsletter

The SAFANSI Loop newsletter provides a quick summary of information gleaned from SAFANSI tasks, deliverables and knowledge briefs, but is intended for a broader audience. To this end it will also serve as an innovative advocacy tool. The newsletter provides contact information for the SAFANSI Secretariat and will guide readers to the website www.worldbank.org/safansi for more information. The first issue¹⁶ of the SAFANSI Loop was circulated in May 2011 and the online version has received 815 views as of 15 March 2012. The second issue¹⁷ was circulated in February 2012 and as of 15 March 2012 the online version had received 915 hits and 7565 unique page views (see map). Printed copies were also made available for distribution in the region.



¹⁶ http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/safansi_newsletter_may_final

¹⁷ http://issuu.com/safansi/docs/the_safansi_loop_newsletter_february_2012

Task Progress Updates

SAFANSI activities are primarily developed through a set of grant activities that have been competitively selected based on a targeted *call for proposals* within the Bank and amongst select recipient organizations external to the Bank. This section details the progress updates of ongoing SAFANSI grant tasks. It also lists actions, milestones and steps that are expected to happen for each grant activity in the coming year.



Supporting Afghanistan's High Level Task Force on Food and Nutrition Security

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Afghanistan

MANAGING SECTOR: SASHN

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To build national commitment and capacity for planning and delivering an evidence-based multi-sectoral response to the challenge of food and nutrition insecurity in Afghanistan, with a particular focus on equity related to gender, poverty and geographic location.*

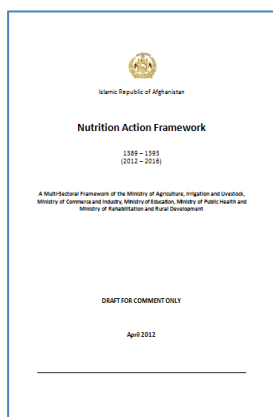
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

Building Commitment of Government and Development Partners: Nutrition Action Framework. The project supported, in conjunction with the other development partners, the preparation of a national multi-sectoral action framework for food and nutrition security. This work provides a follow-up plan to the recently completed nutrition assessment, [Malnutrition in Afghanistan; Scale, Scope, Causes, and Potential Response](#)¹⁸. This support was provided in collaboration with other development partners (e.g. USAID, EC, UNICEF, DFID, WFP, FAO, WHO, MI, GAIN) who are also interested in supporting such activities.

A draft multi-sectoral action framework for food and nutrition security (FNS) in Afghanistan has been completed. The document is designed around the following concept: ***Plan multi-sectorally, implement sectorally and review multi-sectorally.*** Chapters in the document are organized around the responsibilities, processes and activities that individual ministries will undertake to support the national FNS agenda. Each chapter constitutes the concerned Ministry's own plan to address food and nutrition security.

The framework was developed through a participatory process involving the five core nutrition-related ministries of the Government of Afghanistan (Ministry of Public Health; Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development). A reference group of development partners each offered assistance to a particular ministry to support the elaboration of that ministry's role in the action framework. High-level meetings with Ministers were held to facilitate this work as well as to advocate for the involvement of the ministries in the multi-sectoral action framework. This was followed by a series of meetings and workshops in each Ministry, facilitated with the support of consultants provided by SAFANSI. Ministry representatives were then brought together in a workshop to discuss their draft chapters and subsequent revisions were carried out based on the feedback from the workshop.

¹⁸ [Malnutrition in Afghanistan; Scale, Scope, Causes, and Potential Response](#) was financed through BB and the Japanese Trust Fund.



The action framework will be used as a tool to guide the national priority programs of Afghanistan (through which 80% of donor financing is channeled) as well as the projects of development partners. It is a live document that will be updated and revised regularly. The action framework also contains a results framework by which a high-level committee (in process of being formed) will track Afghanistan's progress and thus create accountability.

A recent World Bank-development partner mission in April met with the Second Vice President to request his leadership in coordinating the Operationalization of the action framework, which is likely to include a Secretariat.

Future Directions

Though the draft multi-sectoral action framework has been completed, the most challenging part of the process—implementation—lies ahead. The goal is to **create a high-level committee** within the Government of Afghanistan, chaired by the Second Vice-President, to oversee the implementation of the action framework. **A secretariat will be established under this committee to create accountability** for the implementation process, track progress and produce reports, and execute a strategic communications plan. Future SAFANSI funding will be important to support the creation and the work program of this secretariat.

Another important area to sustain interest will be the **implementation of a comprehensive advocacy plan**, the design of which will be financed by the current SAFANSI grant. SAFANSI funding will also be sought for the **creation of a separate platform**, independent of the secretariat that will serve as a **knowledge platform**.

Improved Analysis and Awareness on Food and Nutrition Security: *Issues briefs/programming guidance notes/workshops.* A “policy notes/programming guidance series” on FNS issues, accompanied by seminars and/or workshops held at least every 6 months has been initiated by this project. This series is targeted at key stakeholders and will specifically focus on cross-sectoral issues. The notes and workshops enable a range of stakeholders in Afghanistan to be well informed of the latest developments in international evidence and best practices in FNS issues. Particular efforts are made to “translate” the more technical notes into communications products that can be assimilated and used by various civil society groups such as the media and NGOs.

Two issue briefs and/or programming guidance notes will be completed by June 2012. One of the processes will provide guidance in the design of the nutritional component of a conditional cash transfer program. The other note will document the experience of the Baby Friendly Village Project implemented by Care of Afghan

Families in four districts of Takhar Province in Afghanistan. The BFV Project was one of 21 grants awarded through the SAR DM on Nutrition.

Box 1: Afghanistan, *Issues briefs/programming guidance notes/workshops*

Challenges & Lessons Learned

The work to produce the issue briefs and programming guidance notes has been delayed partly because of initial low demand for these guidance notes. With the emergence of the Nutrition Action Framework, nutrition has emerged as a priority area in Afghanistan. As a result, **sectors are increasingly seeking guidance on what role(s) they can play in contributing to the FNS agenda** and there is now strong demand for SAFANSI support for these notes.

The **flexible approach adopted in this learning component, wherein the topics of the notes are flexible and decided in real time based on country needs is extremely useful.** Having a program with approved financing at country level that TTLs from various sectors can access to obtain additional support (e.g. by hiring a consultant to carry out additional analysis) is an important incentive to catalyze interest from these teams in food and nutrition security issues.

There are substantial capacity constraints in Afghanistan which limit the rate at which SAFANSI activities can be carried out. An expression of interest was advertised in Afghanistan for firms to carry out a political economy analysis and create an advocacy plan for the action framework. Despite considerable efforts to reach out to national and international firms, none have responded.

Future Directions

The other four issue briefs/guidance notes are in various stages of development, and will be completed in the next fiscal year. They will support knowledge generation related to the following topics:

- 1) enabling an adolescent girls' skills development program to be more nutrition-sensitive;**
- 2) a political economy analysis and advocacy plan for the action framework;**
- 3) a review of programs to increase women's access to iron-folate supplements;**
- 4) a review of the role of the Ministry of Public Health as a steward for nutrition.**

A strong focus will be given to dissemination of the findings of these briefs and guidance notes to stakeholders in Afghanistan and, as appropriate, regionally and globally. **The demand for these notes is now strong and likely to continue beyond these initial six notes.** Requests will likely be made to the SAFANSI Secretariat for continuing and expanding this program which supports all three SAFANSI pillars.

Supporting Nepal's High Level Task Force on Food and Nutrition Security (of National Planning Commission)

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Nepal

MANAGING SECTOR: SASHN

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To build national commitment and capacity for planning and delivering an evidence-based multi-sectoral response to the challenge of food and nutrition insecurity in Nepal, with a particular focus on inequities related to gender, social exclusion (caste, religion), poverty and geographic location.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

Building Commitment of Government and Development Partners: *Nutrition Plan of Action*. The project has supported the preparation of a national multi-sectoral results framework for food and nutrition security, which underlies a set of basic principles and clearly defined roles and targets for each relevant Ministry. This work builds on some initial efforts to develop two separate but related documents: a food security plan (led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives with support from the World Bank) and a nutrition plan (led by the Ministry of Health and Population). The project also supports the development of at least three Ministry-specific costed plans of action to facilitate the implementation of the results framework.



A draft multi-sectoral nutrition action plan was completed in December 2011. The plan, informed in large part by the Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis (NAGA) conducted in 2009 by the Government of Nepal (GoN) with support from several partners, outlines a multi-sectoral program of support for nutrition that will be implemented by various Ministries including the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (MPPW), Ministry of Local Development (MoLD), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC), and Ministry of Commerce and Supplies (MoCS). **Each sector will manage its respective programs with multi-sectoral coordination by the National Planning Commission (NPC) and District Development Committees (DDC) at the central and local levels, respectively.** The programs aim to achieve three primary outcomes: 1) improve policies, plans and multi-sectoral coordination at the national and local levels, 2) support practices that promote optimal nutrition services and lead to enhanced nutritional status, and 3) strengthen the capacity of central and local governments to provide basic nutrition-related services in an inclusive and equitable manner. SAFANSI support enabled the World Bank team to provide technical inputs into the preparation of the plan and enabled the costing of the plan to be undertaken.

Box 2: Nepal, *Nutrition Plan of Action*

Challenges & Lessons Learned

The **high concentration of development partners, strong national and international capacity, enabling security environment and the relative ease of finding consultants in Nepal enabled the development of a costed action plan.** Costing provides an estimate, or order of magnitude, of program costs. Precise budgets to support programs are developed at a later stage. However, the **costing exercise helped Ministries to prioritize activities within their initially proposed programs** and remove some activities from their “wish lists” when program costs were estimated to be substantially higher than initially anticipated.

Successive GON administrations have supported the development of the nutrition action plan. This consistent support reveals the success of the nutrition advocacy work that SAFANSI and others have financed in recent years. SAFANSI can take some credit for the status of nutrition as a development priority in Nepal.

Several of the challenges and lessons learned in this context were similar to those relating to the task “Supporting Multi-sectoral Action to Improve Food and Nutrition Security in Afghanistan”. Key lessons include:

- The **importance of process needs to be fully appreciated.** Though the development of the nutrition action plan required more time than initially planned, the additional time invested was crucial to supporting a consensual process wherein ministries could appropriately define their role within the action framework, engage in discussions with other ministries to understand their role in the landscape of FNS activities as well as have a broader dialogue with the development partners.
- It is important for development partners also to have a multi-sectoral perspective and team when engaging in this process. There was such a team in place in Nepal from the start.
- **Substantial consultant support is needed** to facilitate the work of developing a multi-sectoral action plan.

Strengthening National Policy and Programming Capacity: *Monitoring FNS Results and Enhancing Coordination.* The project will support the costs related to the establishment of a modest working Secretariat within the National Planning Commission to provide day-to-day support to the main committees that are currently working on FNS issues (e.g. High Level Task Force for Food and Nutrition Security) and to monitor progress on FNS.

A **Secretariat within the NPC is now being established to support the implementation of the multi-sectoral nutrition action plan** to the districts in coordination with UN REACH, SUN and other initiatives. The coordinator of the Secretariat and second in charge will be supported by UN REACH while SAFANSI will support four additional Secretariat staff including a nutrition officer, food security officer, monitoring & evaluation officer, and communications officer. One-year contracts will be offered to these staff members, with a second year pending an extension of SAFANSI funding.

Box 3: Nepal, *Monitoring FNS Results and Enhancing Coordination*

Challenges & Lessons Learned

The Secretariat was originally expected to be established one year ago. However, the development of the multi-sectoral nutrition action plan required more time than initially anticipated. Changes in leadership were also a source of some delay. **The action plan demonstrates the benefit of establishing a Secretariat, but it was important to have the plan in place before moving forward.**

Building Evidence Base, Analysis and Awareness on Food and Nutrition Security: *Issues briefs/workshops.* A “policy/program guidance notes series” on FNS issues, accompanied by seminars and workshops hosted by the National Planning Commission and held annually, has been initiated by this project. This series is targeted at key stakeholders and will specifically focus on cross-sectoral issues.

Three policy/program guidance notes will be produced in Nepal.

- The first of these knowledge tasks will draft a strategic communications plan combining a political economy analysis with an advocacy plan to support the delivery of the multi-sectoral nutrition action plan. A firm to develop this plan will be chosen through a competitive selection process that is already underway.
- The second note will provide guidance for capacity building to facilitate better targeting of food distribution programs in Nepal.
- The third note will assess the existing systems capacity in Nepal for implementing multi-sectoral nutrition programs at the community level. This note will examine the roles of community workers within each sector to understand how their respective skills, capacities and responsibilities might contribute to nutrition programming.

Future Directions:

The main next steps for this project will be to successfully establish the Secretariat and draft the advocacy plan described above. It will be important to ensure that the Secretariat plays an effective role. This would include enabling it to collect data on the status of program implementation across sectors related to food and nutrition security and starting the implementation of the strategic communications plan. A proposal may be submitted to SAFANSI to finance part of the implementation of the strategic communications plan.

Though SAFANSI support is already contributing to the development of knowledge products such as these policy and program guidance notes, other Bank teams are increasingly requesting that similar knowledge tasks be carried out in response to various needs. Expanding support for these tasks may be an important next step.

South Asia Development Marketplace on Nutrition

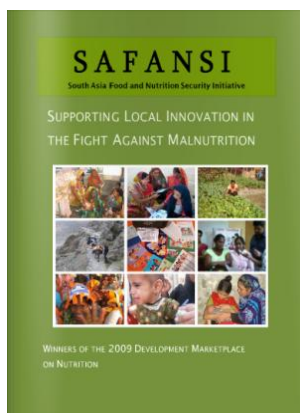
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: South Asia Regional

MANAGING SECTOR: SASHN

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To learn from and share experience of promising approaches to achieving and measuring improvements in infant and young child nutrition through i) assessment of each Nutrition Development Marketplace grantees experience and ii) an interactive capacity building and regional knowledge exchange workshop.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

The project implementation period for the 21 grantees under the SAR DM is complete. SAFANSI funded technical assistance that was provided to grantees by the Micronutrient Initiative (MI). This TA included one site visit to each of the grantees during the implementation period and additional site visits to five grantees that were selected as "case studies". The grant also funded a midterm capacity building and information sharing workshop that was held in Kathmandu in November 2010. Finally, under its contract, the MI produced an interim report and is in the process of revising the final report based on comments from the Bank team. There are plans to disseminate the final report at a regional knowledge sharing forum entitled "Sharing Lessons from Community Experiences: Improving Infant and Young Child Nutrition" planned for June 2012.



There is a rich collection of grassroots experiences that emerged from the nutrition DM including partnerships with government programs and the private sector, community mobilization/outreach, and the use of ICT. **Several grantees have attracted the attention of other donors to continue funding the further scale up of some key elements of various interventions and are even being replicated or adapted by other organizations.** For example, HELP in Pakistan was able to attract funding from MISEREOR (Germany) and USAID, and has been able to work in partnership with UNICEF and WFP to implement other community based management programs to address acute malnutrition. TAHN in Bangladesh has established a new alliance with BRAC and the Alive and Thrive project funded by the Gates Foundation. ICDDR, B is launching a project which will scale-up key components of the TAHN project, supported by funding from AusAID in the Mirpur slums of Dhaka. Similarly, in India, private doctors in the district adjoining Deepak Foundation's project have shown interest in providing the horoscope, containing key birth and feeding details, to their clients. Deepak Foundation has also successfully advocated with the state government to support the continued training of Village Health and Sanitation Committees through a consortium of NGOs. Other examples include:

- The Kurigram Municipality and Terre des Hommes International Federation, which has launched a new project to address childhood



**Interview with
Archana Joshi and
Nandini Srivastava,
The Deepak Foundation**

undernutrition, following the successful partnership with Concern Worldwide for the SAR DM funded project, along with the creation of a municipal-level forum to coordinate services and improve coverage.

- CINI (India) has convinced Panchayats to purchase and distribute Nutrimix to malnourished children.
- Lata Medical Research Foundation has received co-funding from Alive & Thrive, and has also established a new alliance for promoting the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and breast-feeding in Nagpur, Central India.
- Care of Afghan Families has scaled up their project in three other provinces in Afghanistan, with UNICEF support, and has successfully advocated with the Ministry of Public Health to pilot female community health supervisors in some parts of Afghanistan.
- Advocacy efforts by HKI, Nepal have resulted in the Ministry of Health and Population adopting communication materials created by the project for their larger IYCF communication strategy.

Additionally, a number of SAR DM grantees held dissemination workshops at the end of their project implementation period. An India national dissemination workshop for all the Indian grantees was also held at the WB office in Delhi in December 2011. Beyond its initial contribution, SAFANSI has separately sponsored several of these dissemination activities of the Development Marketplace winners¹⁹. These dissemination activities showcased examples of community-based innovations in nutrition as well as lessons from implementation.

¹⁹ http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/2009_sar_development_marketplace_on_nutrition/1



populate (in part) the system dynamics model that underlies the MST. Four rounds of nutritional surveillance data collected by BRAC University will also be incorporated into the model, thus allowing for examination of seasonal dynamics. The effectiveness and impact pathways of programs that aim to improve nutritional outcomes will then be modeled using the MST. Ranges of estimates for the effectiveness of program inputs will be used to simulate the impact on outcomes where the effectiveness is not known or is known with only a high degree of uncertainty. **Government staff from the new National Nutrition Services (NNS) program has expressed interested in adopting and testing the MST to help shape program operations and implementation.**

An institutional analysis of nutrition policy in both of the focus districts was also carried out to understand decision making processes at the national and district levels. This analysis has informed the process of engaging government stakeholders with results and innovations emerging from the development and use of the MST.

A policy note on, *Five Advances Making It Easier to Work on Results in Development: An Operational Perspective with South Asia Nutrition Examples*²¹, has been released through the PREM Notes series on this work.

Future Directions

The initial MST will be presented to government officials and other stakeholders in Bangladesh during a meeting at the end of May 2012. By this time, the MST will have been populated and tested using Bangladesh DHS data, as well as data from the baseline survey, stakeholder analysis, and BRAC University nutritional surveillance work mentioned earlier. Though these tools are initially being tested in Bangladesh, discussions have begun to explore adapting them for use in sub-Saharan Africa as well.

Efforts are also underway to test the MST using national-level data from Peru to examine the causal pathways that led to the nutritional improvements observed in that country. Capacity building tools such as integrated e-book applications may also be developed that combine the interactive dashboards and MST with multimedia tools in a single platform to allow program planners and implementers to map out characteristics of their coverage areas and easily access data to inform decision-making as needed.

Conceptualizing the use of the MST and interactive dashboard tools as a management intervention, future funding could be directed toward testing and then evaluating the impact of such an intervention. Districts could be randomly allocated to receive these tools to assist with program planning, design and

²¹ <http://go.worldbank.org/CC5UP7ABNO>

implementation. An impact evaluation could then examine whether districts achieve more rapid progress in improving nutrition outcomes by adopting this systematic approach.

Box 4: Bangladesh, *Multisectoral Simulation Tool*

Challenges & Lessons Learned

The MST complements the SAFANSI Modifiable Adequacy analysis (described below) wherein interactive graphical dashboards allow decision-makers to assess the potential nutritional impacts of achieving adequate care for women and children, household food security and healthy environments. This **adequacy assessment tool can serve as an initial entry point for examining the causal determinants of undernutrition in a specific context, and the MST can then be incorporated to refine and extend these analyses.**

The MST is not only useful to determine the direction of relationships between variables, but also the scale. Quantitatively modeling relationships with the MST allow decision-makers to assess whether the scale of a particular program is appropriate relative to the size of the problem. Modeling putative impact pathways/transmission mechanisms with the MST has been difficult with respect to the dietary intake factors that may be driving nutrition outcomes. Household food security measures (e.g. WFP's Food Consumption Score) are not always sensitive enough to detect differences in nutritional outcomes and pathways from household food security to child nutrition can be complex. Dietary adequacy measures are needed beyond 24 months of age and these measures must be linked to nutritional outcomes.

The **MST provides a more holistic approach to examining operational needs and addressing knowledge gaps** by emphasizing problem solving, rather than specific research questions. The MST, however, does not account for the endogeneity of factors identified in the model and finding adequate instruments may be difficult. Prospective randomized trials are needed, therefore, as a next step to build upon the relationships modeled by the MST, to determine what factors and/or combination of factors are especially driving poor nutrition outcomes, and to advance causal inferences.

This work and the development of the interactive dashboards began as analytics projects. However, the **potential of these tools to guide the planning of multisectoral nutrition programs has become increasingly recognized.** Discussions have begun with Bank staff carrying out operations work to determine how to incorporate these tools into ongoing nutritional surveillance efforts and to help determine the need to implement specific tasks to improve program effectiveness.

The stakeholder analysis completed with UN REACH not only identified those actors delivering nutrition services (e.g. NGOs) within the focus district, but also examined NGO cost structures. These data are particularly useful for grounding estimates of implementation costs for scaled up interventions. UN REACH field-level staff has an intimate, on-the-ground perspective of the processes driving nutritional problems where they are working. **Maintaining the collaboration with UN REACH has allowed for greater knowledge sharing and identification of the knowledge gaps the MST might help to address.** The hiring of a Bank team member embedded in the UN REACH Bangladesh office using SAFANSI funding has helped to strengthen this collaboration.

SAFANSI Modifiable Adequacy (SAFANSI MA) Analysis²²

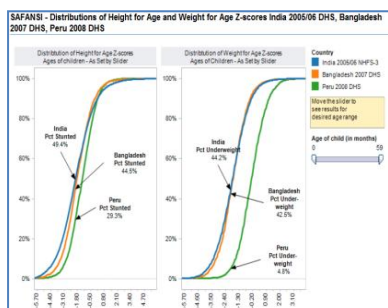
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Bangladesh and India

MANAGING SECTOR: SASEP

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To provide the analytical work necessary to help governments choose the mix and scale of their interventions that will most effectively reduce malnutrition in South Asia.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

SAFANSI has supported the development of evidence-based research and analysis, which can help policy makers make more informed and effective policies. A focus on what constitutes adequate food, health and care —the three dimensions that feature prominently in the UNICEF framework — has the potential to shape policy dialogue. The most important SAFANSI innovation in this regard is the formulation of explicit and scientific measures for the adequacy of food, health and care, and determining how significantly being adequate in one, two or all three dimensions is associated with differences in the level of nutritional outcomes.



The approach makes use of recent advances in visual data analysis to create dashboards that allow policy makers to observe these interrelated indicators. Policy makers will be able to instantly see how the results change on these dashboards as one explores the relationships in the data. This helps focus attention on those factors that are empirically proven to be most closely related to achieving improvements in nutritional outcomes. In addition to the innovative visual data analysis, progress has been made on an econometric specification relating measures of adequacy of food, health and care to nutritional outcomes.

This study has led to a session at the day-long training workshop to be given at the Bank on “*Food Security and Nutrition: From Measurement to Results*” which took place on March 22, 2012. Presentations on the Visual Data Analysis linking adequacies of food, health and care have been made at the IFPRI Conference on Food Security and Nutrition, a follow-up conference on metrics organized in London, as well as to DFID-India in New Delhi, the World Bank at the South Asia Innovation Day, at a SAFANSI workshop and at the Gates Foundation in Seattle.

This analysis has assisted in the production of a policy note (created jointly by the Bank and the Public Health Foundation of India²³) entitled, *India Health Beat: Nutrition in India*²⁴. The empirical models used in the analysis are able to connect measures of adequacies of food, health and care for Bangladesh and India (and, for

²² This task and analysis was formerly labeled “*Linking Nutritional Outcomes to Adequacy of Food, Health and Care in Bangladesh and India.*” It has been renamed to provide better branding and name recognition.

²³ India Health Beat is produced by the Public Health Foundation of India and the World Bank’s Health Nutrition and Population unit located in Delhi. The Notes are a vehicle for disseminating policy-relevant research, case studies and experiences pertinent to the Indian health system. A new volume of India Health Beat is brought out every quarter comprising of both thematic and non-thematic volumes.

²⁴ <http://www.phfi.org/publications/policy-notes>



The team has also produced a video analyzing the data through a guided tour of the dashboards. **The interactive dashboards²⁶ and explanatory video²⁷ translates the econometric results into pictures, which will make it easier for policy makers to interpret.**

Future Directions

A mission will likely be held in May to bring various elements - the stakeholder mapping, the data analysis of the Satkhira baseline along with analysis of national data, the institutional analysis and the draft MST - together and to discuss next steps with government. With these products in hand and with the strong working relations that have been established, SAFANSI will be aiming to move quickly to

http://www.kultura.com/index.php/kwidget/cache_st/1326843518/wid/_619672/uiconf_id/6817602/entry_id/1_2v75d49h

²⁷http://www.kultura.com/index.php/kwidget/cache_st/1326843518/wid/_619672/uiconf_id/6817602/entry_id/12v75d49h

influence the interventions that will take place in the two target districts as part of a larger scaling up at a national level.

Box 5: Bangladesh, *SAFANSI MA/MST Partnerships with REACH*

Challenges & Lessons Learned

SAFANSI has forged a close working relationship with REACH (through the SAFANSI MA and MST models) and jointly organized several missions to work on making a significant improvement in nutritional outcomes in two districts (Satkhira and Gaibanda). As part of this relationship, a baseline survey – financed by UNICEF – has been collected in Satkhira and has now been shared with SAFANSI (an example of how this working relation has leveraged additional resources). In addition, the REACH Initiative carried out a Stakeholder mapping exercise and financed a study on institutional aspects associated with introducing the MST into the planning process on nutrition in Bangladesh. With SAFANSI funds, a research analyst was hired to facilitate the preparation of these joint tasks. To further strengthen the relation, the RA sits in the REACH Offices in Dhaka and provides logistical support.

South Asia Gender and Nutrition Mapping

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: South Asia Regional

MANAGING SECTOR: SASDS

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *The objective is to provide evidence-based analysis to leverage commitment from government and development partners to develop gender-sensitive cross-sectoral policies and strategies that address undernutrition in South Asia.*

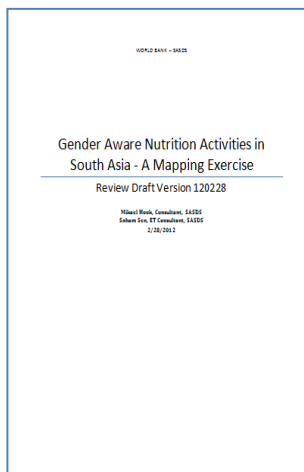
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

Through a rapid process of interviews with key policy makers, program managers, and researchers, the study provides an overview of various programmatic approaches that have been adopted to address gender issues in interventions primarily focused on nutrition. **A broad framework – recently developed by UNICEF – was used to map the complex set of relationships between gender equities and nutritional outcomes into three categories:** (1) women's intra-household bargaining power, (2) the division of labor between genders in a household, and (3) the general gender norms as they influence child survival, infant feeding, and experience of gender based violence. Since the change in status over a woman's lifecycle is critical, the mapping exercise made a special effort to note activities that target adolescent girls.

A chain-referral sampling strategy was used to identify a network of stakeholders involved with nutrition and gender initiatives in the eight South Asian countries.

This technique is effective in identifying hidden or unknown stakeholders, and works by identifying initial (index) individuals who subsequently recommend additional stakeholders from within their circle of acquaintances (Schensul, Schensul, & LeCompte, 1999). For this study, index stakeholders included World Bank staff with expertise in nutrition and gender, authors of notable research papers on nutrition and gender, nutrition and gender focal points at key Ministries and country offices for development partner organizations (i.e. World Bank, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, WHO, USAID, DFID, AusAid). These initial interviews led to the identification of other stakeholders who were subsequently contacted and interviewed. In addition to using the chain-referral sampling strategy, some additional stakeholders were identified through a literature review. Initial contact was made with index stakeholders via email and phone in December 2011. Semi-structured interviews were conducted in person and over the phone from December 2011 through January 2012 using a standard questionnaire developed for this study.

The concluded consultations provided inputs into the mapping exercise, including: (1) conceptually framing the linkages between gender and nutrition (as well as pathways by which the first affects the second); (2) identification of relevant



literature; (3) awareness of relevant programs and activities within and outside the Bank; and (4) contacts of others important stakeholders. As a result of these extensive consultations, this task has served to increase the visibility of the gender dimensions of malnutrition in South Asia amongst the stakeholders interviewed. The interactions have begun a dialogue that will be continued through the subsequent tasks of this activity.

Future directions

The next steps taken from the completion of this task will broadly be to continue the dialogue with project designers and task managers to mainstream gender into upcoming projects that have nutrition objectives. More concretely, this will take the form of building on the mapping exercise to investigate the literature on the policy options that were identified in the mapping exercise such as directing behavioral change communication to men in the household in addition to the women. Small studies and pilots will follow. For instance, in Sri Lanka, a small household survey component is being added to the ongoing female labor force participation study to understand how much men contribute to household activities and what their perceptions are about their roles in household management and child care. Finally, the learning will be synthesized into short notes for program designers and disseminated widely.

Box 6: South Asia, Gender and Nutrition

Challenges & Lessons Learned

Nutrition interventions do not by and large address the gender dimensions of the malnutrition problem that is so significant in South Asia. Before, the World Bank or other development partners can advocate for nutrition policies that are gender aware, it is necessary to identify the types of interventions that are possible and identify their effectiveness through research and pilots. This mapping exercise is a first step in this process. An examination of the current approaches being applied by programs of government, World Bank, or other development partners helps to identify a menu of policy options. The existing literature is also a source of existing ideas, and though the focus of this mapping exercise was not on a formal literature review, evidence identified during the consultations is noted in the report. Finally, given the critical importance of political, the key actors and policies in the political landscape were also identified.

Assessment of Bangladesh CCT Pilot through Local Governments for Human Development

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Bangladesh

MANAGING SECTOR: SASSP

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To provide recommendations on the effectiveness of program design of conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs for improving a number of outcomes, such as school enrollment/attendance and child nutritional status.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

After many months of labor intensive preparations, the team is now in the field with the CCT pilot and ***has received over 15,000 applications in one week.*** When asked why they have come, many of the mothers standing in queue have said "We are here to improve our children's nutrition." This statement, along with the sheer number of those who turned out for this program, indicates the demand that the Bank has stimulated for such services at the grassroots level. It is expected that such desires for adequate nutrition will filter up to the political level as the agenda becomes increasingly popular and the constituency increasingly demands accountability for the agenda.



**Bangladesh CCT,
Application Lines**

This *Assessment of Bangladesh Conditional Cash Transfers through Local Government for Human Development* aims to pilot a conditional cash transfer program through local governments to smooth consumption of extreme poor households and promote nutrition and education of their children in rural and urban areas. The cash transfers will be delivered bi-monthly through an electronic cash card issued and channeled by the Bangladesh Post Office. The pilot design includes third party monitoring of beneficiary participation in the nutrition program and regular school attendance of beneficiary children by independent organizations to ensure compliance. A Management Information System (MIS) for monitoring the program cycle including targeting, enrolment, payments, and an appeals process are being developed to support implementation of the project. ***The SAFANSI funded Impact Assessment plays a crucial role in taking stock of the outcome of conditional cash transfers on behavioral changes among the beneficiary population on selected education and nutrition outcomes.***

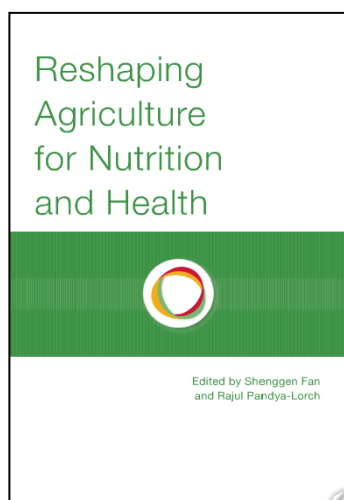
The CCT Pilot is unique in its design and thus has generated interest and increased awareness of the importance of local government involvement in the implementation and monitoring of cash benefits targeted at extreme poor households to help improve nutrition outcomes. It is expected that the large public information campaign/BCC component will increase awareness on the importance of nutrition for children under 2 years of age for both potential beneficiaries of the project as well as local residents who may not be beneficiaries.

The nutrition component emphasizes the need for:

- Increased attainment of ‘age specific goal weight’ among 0 to 24 months
- Increased nutrition related knowledge and practice among mothers with children aged 0 to 24 months
- Increased nutrition related knowledge among other key decision makers and care givers in the households such as mothers in law and fathers
- Increased rate of exclusive breastfeeding of children aged 0 to 6 months
- Increased dietary diversity and appropriate frequency of feeding among children aged 7 to 24 months

The World Bank team and the Local Government Division (LGD) have partnered with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to implement the Pilot’s Nutrition services and monitor the aforementioned outcomes with the help of Government-run Community Clinics. The pilot has also generated keen interest and discussions regarding scaling up such similar investments as part of the planned activities under the Bangladesh Country Assistance Strategy FY10-14.

The impact evaluation supported by this grant will look at whether the pilot was able to positively affect the aforementioned outcomes related to nutrition of the beneficiary population. It is also important to see whether such attitudinal changes lead to better dietary diversity and feeding practices of beneficiary children. This case study will provide a strong basis for the scaling up the program.



IFPRI Conference on Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: South Asia Regional

MANAGING SECTOR: SASDA

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To inform multi-sectoral policy approaches in order to leverage agriculture's impact on nutrition and health outcomes.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

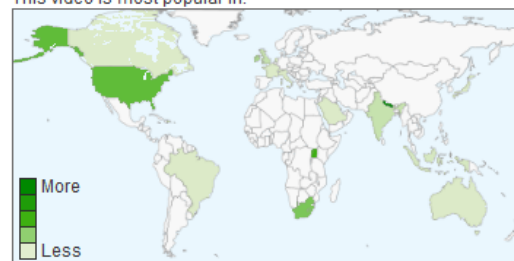
To commemorate the 1st anniversary of the SAFANSI-supported Conference on *Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Health and Nutrition*²⁸, IFPRI has compiled the background briefs originally commissioned for the event and subsequently peer-reviewed and revised. The 23 chapters in *Reshaping Agriculture for Nutrition and Health*, edited by Shenggen Fan and Rajul Pandya-Lorch, examine (i) how agriculture could do much more to improve human well-being if it included specific policies, actions, and interventions to achieve health and nutrition goals; (ii) what kinds of changes would maximize agriculture's contribution to human health and nutrition; and (iii) how human health and nutrition could contribute to a productive and sustainable agricultural system. The full book can be downloaded, in its entirety or by individual chapters online²⁹. A short booklet containing the preview of the book can also be found online³⁰ as can a summary video³¹.



Inger Andersen
World Bank, Vice President
Sustainable Development

Beyond co-sponsoring the Conference, SAFANSI had organized a number of high visibility side-events during the conference. The most notable of these activities was the scheduled SAFANSI presentation, which was organized around a High-Level Panel discussion on *Building a Platform for Food and Nutrition Security*³². It served to greatly increase the SAFANSI profile within the South Asia Region and internationally. Since the video of the SAFANSI side-event has been posted online it has been viewed 354 times (as of March 7, 2012) from people in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Australia, the UK, Ireland, Uganda, Brazil, Italy, France, the United States, Canada, South Africa, and around the world (see map).

This video is most popular in:



²⁸ <http://2020conference.ifpri.info/>

²⁹ <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/reshaping-agriculture-nutrition-and-health>

³⁰ <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/reshaping-agriculture-nutrition-and-health-overview>

³¹ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-EqGw9BhIG4&feature=youtu.be>

³² http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=44446D497077C1F6

Developing a Framework for Applied Political Economy Analysis of Food and Nutrition Security Issues in South Asia

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: South Asia Regional

MANAGING SECTOR: SASHN

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To develop an applied political economy framework to better understand and promote FNS programs and initiatives across the seven countries in the South Asian region.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

Recent attention to political economy issues for food and nutrition security has coincided with rising concern about political economy of development. SAFANSI has devoted significant resources to trying to understand political economy and its implications for this development work. This activity has produced a paper that explores the intersection of these two trends: the growing attention to political economy in development and the growing concern with food and nutrition security. The objective is to promote the use of political economy analysis in the food and nutrition security discussions for the countries of South Asia

This paper confronts two major challenges. First is the lack of clarity about what constitutes Political Economy Analysis, including what its main objectives are, how it is conducted and used in practice, and who should be using it. It covers both economic and political forms of analysis, includes both quantitative and qualitative approaches, and does not have a single definition – agreed through consensus – either in theory or in practice.

Second is the lack of clarity on the definition of *Food and Nutrition Security*, and what kinds of policies are needed to achieve this goal³³. A major obstacle in this policy arena is effectively bringing together diverse intellectual communities and bureaucratic agencies, especially in seeking to create common cause between the agriculture and health arenas in pursuing nutrition objectives.

While this study is explicitly located within the field of applied political economy, it draws on the academic literature to promote theory-based political economic analysis that has practical utility for policymakers and practitioners. The paper is structured as follows: Part I is divided into four sections. *Section 2*, explores the practice of Political Economy Analysis with a brief review of recent approaches and experiences at DFID and the World Bank. This is placed within the context of the academic literature, with an introduction to the stages of the policy cycle where different political economy issues prevail. In *Section 3*, it critically reviews existing political economy analyses of food and nutrition policy and examines what can be

³³ The field of Food and Nutrition Security involves different disciplines, different policy communities, and different perspectives on both the problems and the solutions.

learned from these past efforts. It also discusses recent developments in the global nutrition system. Sections 2 and 3 inform how we approach political economy analysis of food and nutrition security in this paper. *Section 4* presents a framework for conducting a political economy analysis, together with the expected results and limitations of this approach. In Part II, the paper will apply the framework to examine specific political economy questions relating to a case study of FNS in India. The paper's final section draws some lessons and conclusions, and suggests ways to move forward for political economy analysis for other countries covered by the South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative.



Learning from Global Success Stories

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: South Asia Regional

MANAGING SECTOR: SASDA

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To facilitate South-South learning by extracting usable lessons from other regions so that they may be transferred to the South Asian context.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

This study examines the experience of several countries and programs around the world—e.g., Thailand, China, Vietnam, and Malaysia as well as some Latin American countries—in taking an integrated approach to the problem of food and nutrition insecurity with the goal of extracting relevant lessons and good practices and transferring them to the South Asian context. A consultant has engaged in consultations with government counterparts in these countries to extract these lessons.

The results show mixed experiences in most countries. Often silos exist in governments and agencies, and if both are not committed to breaking down the silo walls, such initiatives will not succeed. The findings also show that there is apparently no lack for analysis of the importance of various sectors to food and nutrition security; however, much of that research has not been translated into successful operations. While high-level commitment to improved food and nutrition security is critical, it is not sufficient to change how systems respond to the problem—e.g., how technicians measure the problem (and progress), whether sector units will work together, etc.

The analysis, entitled, *Multi-Sectoral Approaches to Promote Nutrition: Past Experiences and Future Course of Action*, is going through the review process. A shorter Policy Brief/Case study, entitled, *Malayasia: a Multi-Sectoral Success Story in Reducing Malnutrition* has been produced and circulated. A critical audience will be practitioners in various sectors—including World Bank staff—who can be agents of change when it comes to the design of such programs.

Pakistan Roundtable Discussion on Agriculture and Water: introducing food and nutrition security to Government Planning

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Pakistan

MANAGING SECTOR: SASDA

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To mainstream the food and nutrition security (FNS) agenda into the development planning process for agriculture and rural development in Pakistan.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

This activity has been concluded since the reporting of the last annual report, but the roundtable discussion has since borne fruit in demand for additional Bank services for analytical work on Food and Nutrition. **As a result of this conference, the Bank has received demand from GoP to conduct additional analytical work on Food and Nutrition Security: The work to be conducted is entitled, *Informing the current debate on current grain procurement policies for better food security and nutrition in Pakistan*³⁴.** The consultations for this work had begun prior to the Roundtable; however SAFANSI funding for this agenda facilitated the formal demand for the work, honed the research questions to be delivered and expedited the process.

Beyond this forthcoming output, SAFANSI financing allowed for Food and Nutrition Security to be brought into this traditionally productivity based discussion. The event, while low-cost, has had a higher than average impact on the Food and Nutrition Agenda in Pakistan. A copy of an extensive *Report of Proceedings*³⁵ can be requested from the SAFANSI Secretariat.



³⁴ This is being financed through Poverty and Social Impact Analyses (PSIA) funds.

³⁵

<http://intranet.worldbank.org/WBSITE/INTRANET/INTCOUNTRIES/INTSOUTHASIA/INTSARSUMSASAR/0,,contentMDK:23130335~pagePK:51243891~piPK:51240921~theSitePK:1501770,00.html>

Enhancing Provincial Commitment for an Evidence-based and Gender-sensitive Multi-sectoral Response to the Food and Nutrition Security Challenge in Pakistan

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Pakistan

MANAGING SECTOR: SASHN

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To improve the analysis and awareness of the most effective ways to achieve food and nutrition security in Pakistan, with a particular focus on equity related to gender, poverty and geographic location.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:³⁶

Improved analysis and awareness on the most effective ways to achieve food and nutrition security outcomes in Pakistan's Provinces: The project is supporting the preparation of provincial policy guidance notes that outline the current status of food and nutrition security in each province, the main causes of food and nutrition insecurity and options for action in relevant sectors. A critical success factor of this work will be to ensure adequate engagement with and dissemination to a range of stakeholders (policy-makers at federal and provincial levels, civil society, media, academics, development partners).

The 18th Amendment of the Constitution of Pakistan, passed in April 2010, enhances provincial autonomy and among other powers, devolves authority for nutrition programming to the provinces. As a result, **the initially proposed analytic work on food and nutrition security issues at the national level in Pakistan will now consist of four provincial policy guidance notes** that will incorporate provincial analysis of national nutrition survey results, as well as political economy analysis. This single task now more closely resembles four separate tasks because of the dialogue needed with each of the four provincial governments.

These policy notes are being developed in each province in Pakistan and are identifying policy options for multi-sectoral action on nutrition. This work will be a combination of advocacy and technical assistance and thus will be process heavy with substantial engagement of multiple government sectors to enhance their involvement in the FNS agenda. Core priorities will be emphasized and based strongly on evidence and feasibility. The process will include: identification of focal points in each provincial department, preparation of a provincial analysis of the recently-released National Nutrition Survey data, as well as workshops and meetings to review previous programming experience on multi-sectoral nutrition in the provinces and a review of the Pakistan Integrated Nutrition Strategy (PINS) framework.

³⁶ Please note that the project description described below has changed since its initial conception.



This work will be carried out over a six to nine month period and will build on the PINS framework developed by the UN agencies and disseminated in the provinces along with the National Nutrition Survey. This document outlines a framework for action, but is not yet fully owned by the various provincial government Departments. The policy notes will, in part, help the provinces to internalize the strategy described in the PINS framework³⁷ as well as help to broaden the discussion around the available policy options.

The Bank's Country Director for Pakistan and all development partners are supportive of this work and an internal, multi-sectoral Bank team has been assembled, including team members from the Health, Nutrition & Population, Social Protection, Water, and Agriculture & Rural Development sectors. An upcoming workshop is expected to be held in May 2012.

Box 7: Pakistan, Provincial Policy Guidance Notes

Challenges & Lessons Learned

The task requires further support to carry out the proposed activities. A few partners, including Save the Children, the Micronutrient Initiative, WHO and UNICEF, have committed to co-financing the project with the Bank. While this increases dependence on other partners for delivery of project objectives, it also ensures the project will not be viewed solely as a Bank exercise. Cooperation with other partners will also help to secure buy-in of government stakeholders. **The Bank's voice lends credibility to the position that nutrition is central to development, but it is enhanced with the participation of other development partners.**

Learning from experience in Afghanistan, an **internal, multi-sectoral Bank team has been assembled early in the policy guidance process** in Pakistan to build ownership within the Bank of the project's goals and approaches. The creation of **policy papers in Pakistan, rather than an action framework, will allow for critical evidence and feasibility considerations to more readily inform policy options.**

Provincial capacity in Pakistan to assess multi-sectoral nutrition policy options is currently limited. A recent analysis, commissioned by DFID, examining past experiences working multi-sectorally to improve nutrition in Pakistan will be brought to bear in working with the provincial government stakeholders to adequately assess these options.

Because of the recent shift toward provincial authority for the nutrition agenda, each province would likely require its own secretariat. It is unclear yet how this management structure would be operationalized across the country.

Future directions:

SAFANSI funding could be used to support a short-term consultant to develop an advocacy plan, as well as support, in part, the implementation of this advocacy plan. A short series of policy briefs might be

³⁷ The strategic objectives of the PINS included: 1) prevent and treat malnutrition among vulnerable population groups, 2) establish a central Nutrition Coordinating Council with a broad multi-sectoral mandate to develop and implement wide-ranging policy decisions to improve nutrition on a nation-wide and province, and 3) strengthen the capacity of institutions, communities and individuals for effective planning, delivery and monitoring of nutrition interventions.

developed to support more in-depth analysis and capacity development in key priority areas (e.g. the role of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund in reducing malnutrition, etc.)

Sri Lanka: Raising the Profile of Nutrition as an Agenda for High Level Policy Makers

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Sri Lanka

MANAGING SECTOR: SASHN

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:



There is strong commitment from the Bank's Country Management Unit, but it has been suggested that more consultations with the Development Partners are needed before the agenda can be brought forward. Moreover, SAFANSI is now pursuing an Advocacy-based route in its Sri Lankan engagements. A component of this strategy is detailed below under the task entitled *Visualizing the 'invisible' epidemic of under-nutrition in Sri Lanka*. The hope is that this engagement will highlight the importance of the issue for national development and growth. It is expected that the results of such advocacy can lead to a greater *demand* for Technical Assistance from the GoSL. Acceleration of TA work must wait until such engagements stimulate formal requests for support before the work program can further be defined.

Bangladesh: Raising the Profile of Nutrition as an Agenda for High Level Policy Makers

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Bangladesh

MANAGING SECTOR: SASHN

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:



While some interest in the FNS agenda has been expressed at various consultations, this has not been sustained. It has been deemed that more consultations are needed to obtain greater ownership of the agenda before bringing the issue to a higher level. SAFANSI is adjusting its strategy in Bangladesh by switching from a focus on "Capacity Building" to an Advocacy-based work program. It is hoped that the results of such advocacy can lead to a greater *demand* for Technical Assistance. The Bank is attempting to use some of its political capital and invested relationships to bring the issue back on the table through other forums. Various possibilities have been explored including utilizing the REACH platforms in Bangladesh to transmit the message, but there has still been minimal progress to date. It is realized that results towards altering the policy agenda may be slower than desired.

Newly Initiated Tasks

The SAFANSI activities outlined below have been developed through a set of grant activities that were selected competitively based on a targeted call for proposals within the Bank. These tasks have only been recently initiated and much progress is still forthcoming. The below will summarize the relevant background justification, the project concept, and some expected milestones for each grant activity that will be met before this trust fund concludes.



Nutrition Assessment and Capacity Building in Bhutan

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Bhutan

MANAGING SECTOR: SASHN

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To generate evidence and create awareness among the Bhutanese policymakers to invest in strengthening the public delivery system with an aim to address malnutrition in the first 1000 days i.e. during pregnancy and the first 24 months after birth.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:



**Lyonpo Zangley Dukpa,
Hon'ble Minister for
Health, Chair of
Policymakers'
Roundtable on Health
Financing
19 December 2011**

On 19 December 2011 the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the World Bank organized a ***Policymakers' Roundtable on Health Financing in Bhutan that was chaired by the Hon'ble Minister for Health***³⁸. The consultation was attended by over 60 senior government officials and members of parliament, and development partners³⁹. The World Bank team discussed how Bhutan was faring in terms of their nutrition outcomes, and how malnutrition was affecting cognitive outcomes and future productivity of the young generation.

Addressing the issue of malnutrition, a representative of the Bank announced that secured funds from the South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFANSI) would permit a comprehensive assessment of malnutrition in the country. This SAFANSI commitment has allowed the FNS agenda to be brought forward in a new set of groundbreaking engagements with Bhutan.

Initially this project will complete a *Comprehensive Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis* for Bhutan, which will likely be followed up by additional activities. More immediately, this analysis will achieve the following purposes:

- (i) *Provide a better understanding of the size, severity and key determinants of malnutrition in Bhutan: **This analysis will, inter alia, include assessment of gender and geographical issues in nutrition, both of which are key mandates of the Bhutan CAS;***
- (ii) *Review the present political economy, capacity, institutional and implementation arrangements in public and private sectors to address undernutrition multi-sectorally:* The multi-sectoral nature of the assessment will also require that reviews of programs in other sectors (outside of the Health Ministry) that impact or could impact on nutrition be done. Examples of such programs include, salt iodization, fortification, water and sanitation initiatives and food security interventions. ***This will be a cross-sectoral examination of the***

³⁸ <http://go.worldbank.org/CPW2FZW2H0>

³⁹ The leading daily, Kuensel, ran a box item on its front page on the nutrition outcomes in South Asia being worse than Sub-Saharan Africa.

institutional structures and implementation arrangements in place, which could address the nutrition challenges in Bhutan.

- (iii) *Review the current nutrition and nutrition-related program, identify gaps and opportunities to scaling-up these programs:* A review of the current basic package of health services will also be carried out specifically to assess the content, adequacy and quality of the nutrition-related components of the package and provide recommendations on how these components can be strengthened. This analysis will suggest actionable areas for the policymakers in Bhutan to scale up the nutrition program in a manner which builds upon the existing strengths of the public delivery system and enables the government to respond quickly to the country's nutrition issues with a high level of efficiency and effectiveness.

This assessment will thus identify options for the development partners and Royal Government of Bhutan support to enhance the country's nutrition programs/initiatives and contribute to a policy environment which supports a sustained and multi-sectoral initiative to address malnutrition in the country. Preparatory activities around the task have already led to steadily increasing visibility on the policy front. In the month of March 2012, the country nominated a very senior official on the SAFANSI TAC, and the ministry of health also wrote to the WB country director for Bhutan seeking support to address undernutrition in the country.

In a discussion with the MOF on 9th April 2012, the Bank HD team (Susan Oppen, Mark La Prairie, Somil Nagpal and Annika Kjellgren) apprised the Director on the importance of nutrition investments and its long term economic impact on the country, which has been very well received. UNICEF and WHO have already committed to support and co-ordinate with this task, and FAO and WFP are expected to do likewise, and the task team hopes to form a multi-agency advisory group to guide this task as it commences.

The first activity under the SAFANSI-supported nutrition assessment is scheduled for May 3, 2012, with a full-day inception workshop with participation of key stakeholder ministries (Health, Education, Agriculture, Planning and Finance) and UN agencies mentioned above. Besides discussions on current activities in the country and receiving inputs on how to best go about the proposed assessment, this workshop should also lead to the formation of a multi-sectoral steering group with senior officials, and an advisory group of UN agencies mentioned above. This co-ordination mechanism is expected to last far beyond the present task and to play a major role in coordinated action on nutrition in the country.

Social Observatory for Rural Food and Nutrition Security in the National Rural Livelihoods Mission

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: India

MANAGING SECTOR: DECRG

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To create a Social Observatory (SO) in order to change the culture of project monitoring and evaluation (by utilizing more scientific techniques, the principle of open data access, and attention to processes of change) through the identification of integrated and gender-smart pathways for the improvement of food and nutrition indicators in India.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

The Social Observatory provides a unique opportunity to support an entirely new institutional structure for M&E in the largest anti-poverty project in the South Asia region – the NRLM/P⁴⁰ – which has important implications for FNS. The goal of the SO is to use a comprehensive learning system that incorporates various M&E tools to measure change, assess the effectiveness of the project, and pinpoint design and implementation challenges. In this respect, such livelihoods projects need to be assessed by measuring their impact on a multidimensional set of indicators: income and wealth, nutrition, health, empowerment, and agency.

This activity will provide rigorous estimates of the impact of the project, and various experiments within the project to evaluate proposed innovations. The impact analysis will be supplemented by qualitative analysis and process evaluations to understand the mechanisms underlying the impact, and to gain insights into challenges of implementation. It will utilize MIS systems to support the Social Observatory's activities that relate to the sustainable agriculture, health, food security and nutrition interventions, and may co-finance related technical assistance to the Social Observatory. Such a structure will allow for rapid assessments of emerging FNS related issues. It will also focus on identifying integrated gender-smart policies to food and nutrition security by leveraging the integrated and gender focused nature of the NRLM/P.

Given the current deep interest in India on developing systems for more accountable governance, there is every expectation that the Social Observatory's work will not only sustain over the long-term within the project, but will also have demonstration effects on other projects in India and implications for the South Asia region as a whole⁴¹.



⁴⁰ The core activities of the Social Observatory will be funded directly by the NRLM/P.

⁴¹ This Social Observatory will be housed in the National and (4) State Ministries of Rural Development; the implementing agency for the NRLM/P. The SO will also include National and State advisory councils that will be comprised of key policy makers from other relevant ministries - such as health, women and child welfare, local academics and representatives of civil society – in order to embed regular feedback into ongoing policy dialogues.

Linking Measures of Food Security with Nutritional Outcomes in South Asia

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: South Asia Regional

MANAGING SECTOR: PRMPR (in conjunction with SASEP)

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To help generate greater consensus on the metrics that could be used to measure food security as it affects nutritional outcomes and to produce recommendations for how data should be collected and what metrics should be produced going forward.*

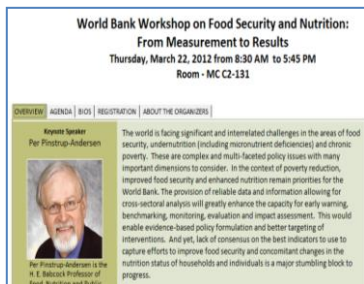
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

This analytical activity aims to fill the acutely perceived knowledge gap on the relationship between *food security* and *nutrition* and thus will particularly focus on drawing out messages that can lead to a greater coordination of these twin agendas. Doubled with this is the identification of tradeoffs (to the extent that they exist) among various policy instruments that attempt to address the objectives of food security and nutritional security. This will lead to the validation of a novel measure of food security that is not only an explicit derivative of nutritional security (through dietary diversity) but also replicable in other similar settings.

The task, which is now three months in operation, has made some significant progress towards meeting its stated objectives. **The analysis of the component of the work relating to Nepal and Bangladesh has advanced substantially and preliminary findings have been presented in a high profile international conference: a global symposium on Food Security and Nutrition organized by the FAO.** This work generated much interest at the symposium and many found the research framework to be highly relevant for policies linking the FNS agenda with agriculture). An updated version of the task's results were presented at a workshop titled "Food Security and Nutrition: From Measurements to Results" organized by the World Bank on March 22, 2012.

The task has built strong synergies with the ongoing Knowledge Platform (KP) on Food Security and Nutrition. In particular, this task is poised to make a significant contribution to the analytical component of the KP's stated objective, i.e. building a consensus around measures of food security most useful to assess the impact of agricultural interventions on nutritional outcomes. The partnership provides a forum to discuss the findings of the work with partners both within and outside of the Bank and translate the generated evidence into concrete policy action. **At the country level, the task has established strategic complementarity with the thematic report on food security and nutrition that is currently being prepared in Nepal as part of the broader work program on poverty assessment.**

The team anticipates completing the first drafts of the Nepal and Bangladesh component of the report by the end of the fiscal year. Progress on Pakistan component of this work has been slow on account of difficulties in securing the data. The team is currently in discussions with the Pakistan Institute for Development Economics (PIDE) on collaborative ways in which the excellent data that they have collected could be exploited.



Child Nutritional Outcomes and Community Based Health Service Provision: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment in Rural Pakistan

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Pakistan

MANAGING SECTOR: PREM / DECRG

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To improve child nutritional and health outcomes through the involvement of women in community based health provision.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

This activity will add to the generation of new knowledge on the link between *female empowerment* and nutritional and health outcomes for children. It will build on an on-going intervention with Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), the National Rural Support Program (NRSP), and the World Bank⁴². By combining a unique design with rigorous analysis, the project will shed light on the mechanisms through which female empowerment affects basic health outcomes and how these affect nutritional outcomes in turn. As a result, this project fills an important gap in the literature on the potential of improving public service delivery through increased accountability and voice.



This project utilizes the structure of an on-going intervention that seeks to empower communities through the creation of Village Organizations (VO) and the provision of village-level grants⁴³. In order to test whether the empowerment of women brings about greater improvements in children's nutritional outcomes, the intervention required 40 percent female composition in a subset of VOs. This design allows the study of the relationship between empowerment and nutritional outcomes. A key advantage of this design is that by mandating female inclusion and by carefully choosing the timing of data collection one can isolate the various channels through which empowerment affects nutrition (and other) outcomes.

The team will also rate the health facilities in a subset of villages organized by NRSP and provide "scorecards" to the village and the staff of the health facilities. The scorecards will use baseline data already collected on the rural health centers and the Lady Health Worker's activities in each village. **The provision of scorecard information should increase accountability, thus a comparison of organized villages with and without scorecards would provide an assessment of the relevance of accountability channels for FNS outcomes.**

⁴² PPAF is an apex institution created in 2000 with World Bank funding that provides capacity building and funding to numerous development partner institutions and NGOs. More than half of its funds, however, go to the Rural Support Programs of which NRSP is by far the largest with presence in 51 districts.

⁴³ The Village Organization collectively elaborates a Village Development Plan (VDP). Typical investments include improvements in existing public services as well as livelihood enhancement activities (training, infrastructure projects, etc).

Assessment of the relation between mortality and morbidity due to diarrheal diseases and sanitation coverage

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Bangladesh

MANAGING SECTOR: TWISA

GRANT OBJECTIVE: To uncover why increased sanitation coverage does not reduce diarrheal disease incidence in Bangladesh.

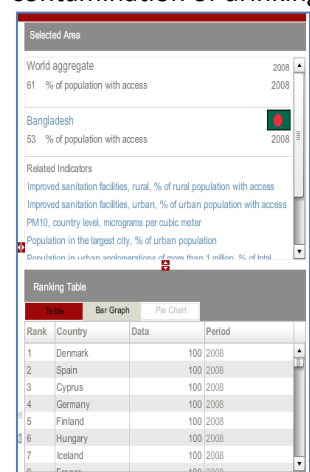
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

A study is underway to determine the pathways through which *faecal coliforms* lead to increased diarrheal disease and thus malnutrition. It is thought that the current lack of impact of increased and/or adequate sanitation coverage on diarrheal disease incidence may be a prime cause. This research will help to determine the exact origin and behavioral contributors to such diarrhea. A mix of methods will be used to investigate both drinking water and sanitation coverage.

A survey will be conducted in the representative areas⁴⁴ to collect the information on (i) actual sanitation coverage and its use, (ii) diarrheal disease incidence, and (iii) relevant socio-demographic variables using both open-ended and structural questionnaires. Latrines will also be observed and conditions recorded using a structured instrument. Through these approaches, one will be able to find out whether there is a gap in sanitation coverage and use of the sanitation facilities. For situation analysis, qualitative methods will also be used which will be supported by survey and prospective data collection.

Furthermore, water samples from both original sources and point-of-use will be taken to investigate where/if the drinking water is the source of contamination. Secondary contamination of household drinking water and food can also occur due to unhygienic practices of the household members; therefore hand-washing samples must also be collected to monitor the secondary contamination of drinking water and food in the households. The estimation of *faecal coliforms* in water, food and hand-washing samples in the laboratory will provide direct evidence of faecal contamination and might provide a clue as to why increased coverage of sanitation in recent years has not had an impact in reduction of diarrhoeal disease incidence in Bangladesh.

This identification of the pathways of contamination, as supported by laboratory tests, will be linked to the prospective data that would be collected on the incidence of diarrheal disease thus demonstrating the magnitude of this problem.



⁴⁴ A study will be conducted in 7 Divisions of the country. Each division will be divided into high, medium and low coverage areas as per Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). Representative rural and urban areas will be included in the study. A total of 42 representative areas (7 Divisions x 3 categories x 2 settings) will be selected. From each study area, a union (rural) or ward (urban) will be selected by simple randomization.

Visualizing the ‘invisible’ epidemic of under-nutrition in Sri Lanka

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Sri Lanka

MANAGING SECTOR: SASHN

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To develop a visual advocacy tool – a thought-provoking video – to help Sri Lankan policy-makers and planners shape the country’s response to the problem of undernutrition, which is out of line with the country’s economic development and health status indicators.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

This activity builds upon the experiences of similar initiatives in Peru and Bolivia, which enabled the building and sustaining of high-level political commitment to malnutrition. Extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders (Government Officials and other key nutrition actors in Sri Lanka) are being done prior to filming the video, and the following will be discussed and agreed upon: (i) a storyline/narrative for the video, aligning it to successful examples in Peru and India; (ii) draft script for the video; (iii) the video shooting locations and activities to be done at each location. The team has already prepared a TOR to engage a firm, and shared it with the Government for comments.

The duration of the video will be about 15 minutes and it will be filmed in communities that meet the specific requirements identified during the consultations. The video will demonstrate the following:

- (i) The magnitude of child malnutrition in Sri Lanka, and that even the richest quintiles has 10-12% of under-five children being underweight;
- (ii) The standard to be met by children that are growing well, using the same tools to illustrate the achievements;
- (iii) The variability in growth trajectories and outcomes of children of similar conditions (e.g., socio-economic), and the reasons;
- (iv) The urgency to act given the irreversibility of damage if the “window of opportunity” (from conception to 24 months of age) is not met
- (v) The importance of growth monitoring and appropriate counseling – show tools for measuring progress in the child’s nutritional status;
- (vi) Appropriate infant and young child feeding and caring practices (exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months, nutritionally adequate complementary foods, hygiene practices etc), and the importance of the life cycle approach in addressing malnutrition;
- (vii) The optimism and possibility of breaking the sub-standard growth.



A dissemination strategy is being drafted in consultation with relevant stakeholders in order to maximize the impact of the video. It is anticipated that the video will: (i) build momentum (and help overcome certain political economy challenges that SAFANSI is facing) to raise commitment for addressing malnutrition, and (ii) empower mothers, caregivers and health workers with the knowledge necessary to understand when a child is malnourished and then to utilize the available nutrition services at their disposal more effectively.

Improving Food and Nutrition Monitoring and Accountability in Rajasthan, India

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: India

MANAGING SECTOR: SASSP

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To improve the monitoring of food security and nutrition at the local level in Rajasthan, India, and to increase the use of FNS information for accountability, policy and program implementation.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

This project is being set up to monitor the impact of a range of social programs important for FNS enhancement⁴⁵. The grant activities complement and extend the aspects of innovative FNS monitoring and policy feedback at the district, block and panchayat/village level as originally planned under the ICDS. The HDI+ instrument being created is a hybrid of the existing Human Development Index (HDI) and village or citizen report card participatory surveys⁴⁶ and has two related objectives; (i) to provide systematic local evidence on the use and effectiveness of programs through user experiences and more aggregated HDI outcomes⁴⁷; (ii) to promote active monitoring of public programs to increase accountability for FNS at local levels.



The activity will develop a short survey⁴⁸ capable of reflecting the status and changes in human development achievements at the village level, with a strong emphasis on FNS. This approach will be complemented by a participatory citizen report card (inclusive of ICDS and NRLP) and extended village profile exercise. This would support other sectors (deemed necessary for improving FNS outcomes) in convergent actions of social services at the local and state level. It can also be used to rapidly assess the overall performance of an agency; based on citizens' experiences in terms of access, quality, reliability and overall satisfaction with services and the transparency of the service provider. When administered regularly, these citizen report cards go beyond a data collection exercise to being an instrument which induces greater public accountability through the extensive dissemination, media coverage and civil society advocacy. Demonstrating success in this one state could encourage other states and localities to engage in systematic monitoring and information-based policy development.

⁴⁵ Responsibility for the implementation of all interventions including social policies rests with the states.

⁴⁶ The citizen report card allows an assessment of the quality of public services such as public health care, primary education, public workfare and safety nets or water supply & sanitation, each of which is known to affect Food and Nutrition Security.

⁴⁷ This information will be utilized to feed directly back into program planning and implementation at the PRI and district/state levels.

⁴⁸ The state has 33 Districts, 237 Blocks and 41,353 villages with a total population of 68.2 million (2010 Census). The surveys will be implemented in three districts, covering about 20 development blocks with 4-6 million individuals. Districts and blocks will be selected in consultation government counterparts, particularly the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RDP), the Department of Women and Child Welfare and the Department of Planning. The surveys will be representative of program users at the block level. Surveys would be conducted in several modes, including at individual homes (village profile) and as users exit program facilities following service receipt.

Improving Food Security in Tribal and Conflict-affected Areas

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: India

MANAGING SECTOR: SASDS

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To strengthen the capacity of government to deliver effective food and nutrition security interventions in conflict-affected areas.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

With so much of South Asia steeped in conflict, the ‘value added’ of this project is its focus on tribal and, specifically, conflict-affected areas. In addition to being extremely needy from a FNS perspective, these areas have fractured service delivery. This activity will aim to (i) support the documentation/best-practices of pilot approaches to improving the delivery of services that affect nutrition and food security in some of the most challenging, conflict-affected tribal areas of the country; and (ii) bring some relief and a potential platform for development to areas that have been largely excluded from growth.



An analytical report will be prepared on the food and nutrition situation in conflict-affected tribal areas. This will include qualitative assessments of the systems providing food and nutritional support to the local population. It will also include substantial field work to engage with local people, women’s groups and other community structures, service providers, the market, etc. Based on this information, a ‘planning workshop’ will be held with key stakeholders to design a pilot for implementation⁴⁹.

The pilot/s will then be ‘fielded’ by the NRLP and documented carefully. Input, process and output documentation would be done with a view to (i) ensuring that implementation is not being thwarted either by the local conflict situation or by other structural problems; and (ii) by making ‘mid-course’ corrections in the design/implementation whenever/wherever necessary. As local institutions (e.g., NGOs, CBOs, public service systems, etc.) are likely to be involved in implementing the pilots, their capacities would be built in the process. A rapid assessment will then be carried out to identify the impacts of the pilot/s. The information from the documentation and assessments will also serve as a basis for producing a scaling-up document for a pilot that is considered successful. The implementation experience will also enable the production of guidance notes and policy briefs.

Hence, while building on evidence of ‘what works’, the project will also build local institutions to revive service delivery for FNS in these areas on a pilot basis. Further, it will link these to women’s community-level institutions and, where possible, to their livelihoods. This combination of strengthening women’s agency and status, improving household nutrition among a highly disadvantaged group (tribal people), and reducing the effects of conflict would be unique in India, and perhaps globally.

⁴⁹ In parallel with this situation analysis, the team will analyze other FNS interventions that have been successful in similar situations elsewhere to provide useful inputs into the design of the pilots during the planning (‘training’) workshop. Issue briefs and case studies will be produced from these analyses.

Community Managed Food and Nutrition Security Initiatives in High Poverty States in India

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: India

MANAGING SECTOR: SASDA

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To enhance institutional capacity of rural livelihood projects for effective planning, designing, implementation and monitoring of food security and nutrition initiatives.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:



The objective of this activity is to help strengthen institutional capacities of National Rural Livelihoods Project and assist it in setting up dedicated TA architecture for FNS themes in collaboration with resource projects/agencies. The project will develop knowledge management and quality training and learning systems. The project is facilitating documentation of best practices, innovations, and learning notes to develop capacity on participatory methodologies. It will train and develop a pool of national level expert trainers and community professionals including para-nutritionists and health activists. To assist in this, the project will partner with select academic institutions such as home science colleges, agriculture universities, public health foundations and nutrition institutes, management institutes, NGOs, etc. It will also explore possibility of designing curriculum and training methodologies for certificate courses on community managed food, health and nutrition disciplines.

Furthermore, this activity will arrange support to States through expert consultants/resource agencies. Comprehensive work programs will be developed to provide technical guidance to States in developing ‘food, health and nutrition security diagnostics’; formulation of pilot strategies for food, health and nutrition security action plans; and effective program management systems (e.g. HR, MIS, etc). This component will also help initiate convergence strategies with one or two ongoing flagship programs like RCH, ICDS, PDS, and MDM. This activity will also take steps to incorporate the use of ICT for MIS tracking, IEC activities, etc.

The value addition from this project is threefold; (i) the outcomes and policy advocacy based on field evidence will impact public spending under large national programs including NRHM, ICDS, PDS, and the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) (ii) action research pilots in two high poverty states (political economies) will develop institutional capacities in using community institutional platforms for delivering FNS outcomes through multi-sector convergence approach; and (iii) it will create a core cadre of development and community professionals to spearhead and manage FNS initiatives in high poverty states, which have been identified under the CAS.

Ultimately, this project’s activities will feed into SAFANSI’s overall objective by systematically sensitizing senior government officials and policy makers to the community managed food security and nutrition agenda and by organizing policy consultations around field evidence and best practice.

Evaluating the nutritional impacts of food security and nutrition programs

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Nepal

MANAGING SECTOR: SASDA

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To evaluate the impacts of food and nutrition security focused programs on pregnant and young mothers and children under the age of 2.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

This grant will carry out two very important evaluations of the Social Safety Net Project (SSNP) & Community Challenge Fund (CCF) programs being implemented by the Government through the Ministry of Local Development. These evaluations will be aimed at addressing food and nutrition insecurity.

The activity will provide an independent evaluation of the CCF, which is aimed at improving nutritional outcomes for pregnant women and children under 2 years of age. The CCF itself is fully financed by the project but SAFANSI financing will allow an independent evaluation to ensure learning and potential scaling up of this pilot. This activity will also be an assessment of the public works schemes to understand if women, nursing mothers and very young children are positively impacted by these schemes. An independent assessment and identification of actions to improve this impact will add value to the Government of Nepal's public works oriented food security programs. The grant from SAFANSI is supporting the design and implementation arrangements through technical assistance from highly experienced evaluators in order to ensure that the results of this innovative pilot can indeed be used for learning and scaling-up, based on rigorous analysis. The funds from SAFANSI will cover the costs of the technical support which will be provided for the design of the randomized evaluation and for the evaluation of the data.

The SSNP also finances public works. The beneficiaries of such programs receive either food or cash as payment for their contribution to the development of a public asset. The SAFANSI activity plans to evaluate the ongoing government public works program to assess if women – especially those of childbearing age – can (or *cannot*) maximize these opportunities to ensure food and nutritional security for themselves, their children and their households. The evaluation will (i) identify how the public works schemes are currently achieving these objectives and (ii) identify specific institutional and program reforms that need to take place to increase the nutritional impact of public works on women and children.

Since public works programs will remain a dominant strategy in trying to reach food insecure populations in Nepal, these reviews and evaluations will provide an immediate opportunity to improve the design of these schemes and can add tremendous value to both food security and nutritional outcomes.

Multi-sectoral Partnership for Nutrition: A pilot in Bihar

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: India

MANAGING SECTOR: SASHN

GRANT OBJECTIVE: *To demonstrate improved nutritional outcomes in a specified geographical area through incorporation of nutrition actions in World Bank operations across several sectors.*

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION AND IMPACT:

Food and nutrition interventions have traditionally been implemented through stand alone food/agriculture-focused or nutrition-focused projects; the former implemented by the Agriculture sector and the latter largely by the Health sector. Since the determinants of nutrition lie across multiple sectors, this project is utilizing other sectors' platforms to promote actions that are either direct food and nutrition interventions or are nutrition-sensitive actions that will impact one or more determinants of nutrition.

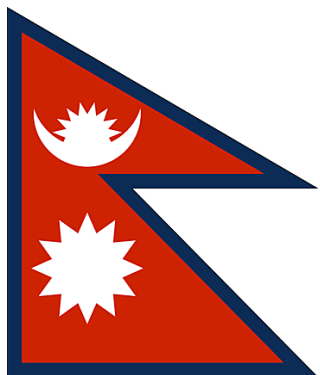


The task is engaging with Task Teams of projects in Bihar – especially the ones currently under preparation – in order to (i) identify the key entry points for food and nutrition interventions, (ii) design relevant and meaningful interventions and indicators to track them, and (iii) include these in the project results framework and design. The scoping and design phase will also include the design of an impact evaluation with an experimental design, and a mechanism for documenting processes, and collecting qualitative information. These will be used to develop a case study to document and disseminate the opportunities, challenges and lessons of cross-sectoral work as well as the FNS impact of mainstreaming nutrition.

Additionally, this task will seek to provide technical support for these nutrition-sensitive components. While each of the individual operations that include mainstreaming of FNS interventions will finance the actual implementation of the interventions, this grant will finance the provision of technical support to the Task Teams during implementation. This support includes development of necessary tools, provision of training, regular participation in Implementation Support Missions, monitoring progress/results and problem solving as needed.

SUNITA Window Update

Nepal's Scaling Up Nutrition Initiative Technical Assistance



Under the SUNITA window of SAFANSI the main activity carried out thus far is an analysis of Food and Nutrition Security data produced under the Nepal Living Standards Survey III. This is a collaborative effort between the National Planning Commission (NPC), the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), the World Bank, the World Food Program and UNICEF. SUNITA financed part of this collaboration, which focused on the analysis of the anthropometric data and the correlation between nutritional outcomes and a range of parameters collected in the survey. The quality control of the analysis was secured through the scrutiny by a reference group, including the World Bank (PREM and HD), UNICEF, USAID, DfID, WFP, AusAID and the EU before the analysis was presented to the NPC and CBS. The overall report is being finalized and the remaining balance under this activity will be used for the printing and launch of the report. The final report will guide Nepal's response to Food and Nutrition Security and point, among other things, to the diversity of factors driving nutritional outcomes across Nepal and to the rationale to pursue a Multi-Sectoral approach to improve nutritional outcomes.

The review of the Infant and Young Child Feeding program is about to begin, the Terms of Reference for this activity have been approved by the Ministry of Health and Population and the NPC and benefitted from input by UNICEF. A national and an international consultant have been identified and they will start this assignment in May 2012. Similarly, the Terms of Reference for carrying out a study how best to create district profiles for malnutrition risk factors, again benefitting from input by many stakeholders, have been approved by the NPC. A consultant has been identified and this activity will start in July-August.

The National Planning Commission has been leading the coordination of all activities under SUNITA and this has crystallized its emerging role in the Food and Nutrition Security agenda in Nepal.

Financial Summary

Current financial information relating to receipts, disbursements and fund balance (in the holding currency of the Trust Fund) is available on the World Bank's Trust funds Donor Center secure website.

The Bank will provide donors, within six months following the end of each Bank fiscal year, an annual single audit report, comprising (1) a management assertion together with an attestation from the Bank's external auditors concerning the adequacy of internal control over cash-based financial reporting for all cash-based trust funds as a whole; and (2) a combined financial statement for all cash-based trust funds together with the Bank's external auditor's opinion thereupon.

Current Financial Status	
Holding Currency (USD)	
Contribution Details	
Total Pledged Contributions	16,213,965
SAFANSI	13,349,748
SUNITA	2,864,216
Financial Summary	
Contributions Paid-in	13,944,660
Investment Income	74,998
Unpaid Contributions	2,269,304
Current Grant Amount	5,323,489

Monitoring Results

SAFANSI has been actively engaged in setting up the implementation framework for all activities undertaken under this Multi-Donor Trust Fund. Procedures, strategic plans of action and monitoring are being ingrained in all levels of SAFANSI's operational structure.

Multiple SAFANSI activities are currently in progress and more are being planned for the near future. Given the proposals approved there is expected to be a flood of output indicators, products and results forthcoming within the next year.

Output and Implementation by Pillar

The output indicators for SAFANSI's three strategic avenues for action are grouped according to the pillar (i.e. Analysis, Advocacy, Capacity Building) with which they are most closely associated. These will help indicate the degree of success for each avenue and SAFANSI's Development Objective more generally. The output indicators for SAFANSI are summarized below.

Results Indicator	March 15, 2010	March 15, 2011	March 15, 2012	June 30, 2013
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE Increased commitment of governments and development partners in SAR for more effective and integrated food security & nutrition actions				
1. No. of national-level planning or policy documents emphasizing an integrated and coordinated (cross sector) approach to FNS	0	2	2	12
2. No. of development partners' country strategies with an integrated, cross sector approach to FNS	0	3	4	9
3. No. of integrated FNS country programs/operations in place	0	3	4	11
PILLAR I: ANALYSIS Improved Evidence and Analysis on the most effective ways to achieve FNS outcomes in South Asia				
1. No. of FNS-related case studies documented and disseminated using sex and other disaggregated data (at least 30% include gender-related issues)	0	2	6 ⁵⁰	13
2. No. of FNS-related Policy and Issues Briefs published and circulated by SAFANSI (at least 30% include gender-related issues)	0	4	5	18
3. No. of major public programs tested/evaluated for impact on FNS outcomes.	0	2	2	9
4. No. of programming guidance notes prepared (all addressing gender issues) ⁵¹	0	5	5	15

⁵⁰ Included in the report, *Multi-Sectoral Approaches to Promote Nutrition: Past Experiences and Future Course of Action*, there are 7 program/country level case studies and multiple other project level analyses, however this is only counted as 1 in this results framework.

⁵¹ e.g. On adopting cross-sectoral approach, improving gender equity or social inclusion, better targeting and so on.

Results Indicator	March 15, 2010	March 15, 2011	March 15, 2012	June 30, 2013
PILLAR II: ADVOCACY Improved Awareness of FNS-related challenges, and advocacy for action, amongst relevant stakeholders				
1. No. of high-profile senior policy makers and opinion leaders sensitized/“trained”	0	50	75	109
2. No. of regional, national and other prominent consultations and workshops organized (addressing gender where appropriate)	2	6	8	24
3. No. of advocacy events (e.g. awareness raising campaigns) carried out	0	6	11	16
4. No. of changes relating to FNS agenda/policies enabled/supported	0	4	5	12
PILLAR III: CAPACITY BUILDING Strengthened regional and in-country policy and programming capacity in relevant areas to achieve FNS outcomes.				
1. No. of country or regional policy networks/forums/platforms supported (or formed) to advance the FNS agenda	0	3	3	6
2. No. of South-South training/capacity building visits to re-orient and improve FNS programs (ensuring a good balance of men and women)	0	4	4	6
3. No. of service delivery mechanisms analyzed and identified for up-scaling	0	2	3	13
4. No. of community-level alliances for promoting FNS outcomes supported	0	6	14	60



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