



Delivering for Nutrition in India: Insights from Implementation Research

September 14-18, 2020

Virtual event

Title	Delivering for Nutrition in India: Insights from Implementation Research
Co-hosts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accountability Initiative, Centre for Policy Research (AI CPR) 2. Alive & Thrive (A&T) 3. Association of Indian Coalition for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD) 4. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) 5. Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) 6. IDinsight 7. Iodine Global Network (IGN) 8. Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) 9. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) 10. International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) 11. National Centre of Excellence and Advanced Research on Anemia Control (NCEAR-A) 12. National Centre of Excellence and Advanced Research on Diets (NCEARD) 13. National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) 14. NITI Aayog 15. Nutrition International (NI) 16. Society for Applied Studies (SAS) 17. The India Nutrition Initiative (TINI) 18. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 19. World Bank (WB)
Date	September 14-18, 2020
Venue	Virtual event
Purpose	To bring together evidence that can inform and support current policy and program initiatives in India for improving maternal and child nutrition, with a special emphasis on implications for nutrition programming during times of crisis, like COVID-19 pandemic.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share findings from implementation research studies in nutrition, particularly focused on India’s National Nutrition Mission, the <i>POSHAN Abhiyaan</i>. • Highlight delivery of a range of nutrition interventions to address the immediate and underlying social determinants of India’s malnutrition challenge. • Use research findings to deliberate on the merits and challenges of implementing maternal and child nutrition interventions. • Provide an opportunity for program implementers, policymakers and researchers to consider implications of COVID-19 pandemic on nutrition programming.
Participants	Development organizations, policymakers, academicians, researchers and implementers.

About the conference

Partnerships and Opportunities to Strengthen and Harmonize Actions for Nutrition in India (POSHAN), along with its co-hosts, is pleased to announce a virtual convening on **'Delivering for Nutrition in India: Insights from Implementation Research'**, which will be held from **September 14-18, 2020**, spread out in brief virtual sessions each day.

The response to curtail the spread of the current global pandemic of COVID-19 has impacted the health and nutrition services, food systems and overall economies in unprecedented ways, which is likely to affect malnutrition and mortality in countries like India. The most vulnerable groups including those at critical developmental stages (i.e., pregnant and lactating women and young children), and those living in resource-poor environments are likely to be most affected either directly or indirectly by the pandemic. This complex interplay of events, life stages, and the overarching environment calls for focused and converging solutions.

India's major nutrition efforts - [POSHAN Abhiyaan](#), and initiatives like '[Anemia Mukh Bharat](#)' and '[Eat Right India](#)' – aim to address malnutrition in all its forms in India. These efforts recognize the importance of the first 1000 days of life, the value of scaling up effective interventions, the critical role of improving nutrition-related behaviors for all, and of addressing the underlying social determinants of India's malnutrition challenge through actions in diverse sectors. They also explicitly recognize the importance of political and administrative leadership and of tackling governance and strengthening systems. Crises like pandemics and natural disasters have the potential to stall progress, but not if programs adapt, transform and redeploy with new vigor.

Delivering for Nutrition in India: Insights from Implementation Research is the third India-focused nutrition implementation research conference and will be the first ever virtual conference on nutrition implementation research. Previous in-person conferences were held in [2016](#) and in [2019](#).

Why implementation research?

The success of these massive efforts across India ultimately depend on improving coverage and quality of interventions and effectively addressing social, economic and other factors that can support families to adopt healthy diets and lifestyles. Implementation research can help identify challenges, test solutions, and inform program scale-up and sustainability.

Process

Through an open call, abstracts were invited on research studies and implementation experiences focused on various aspects of POSHAN Abhiyaan and other platforms supporting actions for

nutrition. Selection of abstracts for oral presentation and posters was made through a double-blind review process. The conference program features 3 pre-conference workshops, 3 plenary lecture sessions, 12 thematic sessions based on selected and poster presentations, 3 social hangouts and opening and closing panels with policymakers and research funders.

Participants

The conference will convene academics, implementers, development partners, and policymakers from multiple institutes on a common platform to share and discuss evidence on strengthening the implementation of maternal and child nutrition initiatives.

Expected outcomes

It is expected that the discussions and deliberations emerging from this conference will, in a collective voice, convey research-based insights to nutrition stakeholders and policymakers to bolster actions for tackling India's nutrition challenge.

The virtual event is anchored by IFPRI's flagship nutrition initiative in India, POSHAN (*Partnerships and Opportunities to Strengthen and Harmonize Actions for Nutrition in India*), which commenced in 2011 and since then has been bringing data and evidence to the nutrition community.