

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Delivering for nutrition in India: How can we close gaps in the implementation evidence base?

September 11, 2020, New Delhi, India – As India observes the national nutrition month (or *Poshan Maah*) in September 2020 to mark the country’s fight against malnutrition, a group of researchers and implementers from multiple institutes will bring together evidence at a virtual implementation research conference on “**Delivering for Nutrition in India: Insights from Implementation Research**”, from 14-18 September, 2020. This is intended to 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.

The virtual event, co-hosted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition, India’s premier nutrition research institute and NITI Aayog, India’s national policy think-tank, and a group of organizations - 19 in all - 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. 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. Please explore the conference details on our [website](#) and download a copy of the [agenda booklet](#).

Through an open call, abstracts were received on research studies and implementation programs that highlight the delivery of a range of nutrition interventions to address the immediate and underlying social determinants of India’s malnutrition challenge. Using these research findings, participants will deliberate on the merits and challenges of implementing maternal and child nutrition interventions. The insights will provide an opportunity for India’s nutrition researchers to consider ways of supporting and documenting the progress made over the last decade in improving health and nutrition outcomes. The program will cover a range of topics of paramount relevance to India’s nutrition efforts, including the following:

- Supporting nutrition behaviors in the first 1000 days
- Bringing it together for good nutrition: What will convergence take?
- Systems strengthening: Human resources, infrastructure, and financing
- Scaling up interventions to tackle anemia
- What we eat: How different aspects of food systems come together
- Systems strengthening: What role can technology play?
- Severe wasting in India: Technical and programmatic insights
- Women together: Consolidating insights from women's group programs for nutrition
- Systems strengthening: Using data to improve programs

- COVID-19 and nutrition: Early insights from around India
- Enhancing the reach and impact of cash transfers in the first 1000 days: What will it take?
- Systems strengthening: Building technical and operational capacities.

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. We invite you to [REGISTER](#) and join the conference. There will be plenty of opportunities to put forth your questions and engage with nutrition experts.

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About POSHAN: POSHAN (*Partnerships and Opportunities to Strengthen and Harmonize Actions for Nutrition in India*) is a multi-year knowledge management initiative, started in 2011, that aims to build evidence on effective actions for nutrition and support the use of evidence in decision-making. It is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in India. Visit: <http://poshan.ifpri.info/>

About IFPRI: The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) seeks sustainable solutions for ending hunger and poverty. IFPRI was established in 1975 to identify and analyze alternative national and international strategies and policies for meeting the food needs of the developing world, with particular emphasis on low-income countries and on the poorer groups in those countries. Visit: www.ifpri.org

About NITI Aayog: The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs. While designing strategic and long-term policies and programs for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre and States. Visit: <https://www.niti.gov.in/>

About ICMR-NIN: The ICMR- National Institute of Nutrition is India's foremost nutrition research Institute working under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India. Since its inception in 1918, the Institute's research contributions have been shaping the policy, public health programs and regulations. The Institute vibrantly integrates laboratory, clinical and community research and takes a multi-disciplinary approach to enable food and nutrition security, promote good health, growth, development and increased productivity of people with a vision to eliminate all forms of malnutrition for a progressive and healthy India.,. Visit: <https://www.nin.res.in/index.html>