



Visualizing the Impact of COVID-19 on Nutrition Outcomes: Interactive Framework Tool Analyzes the Effects of Global Shocks on Nutritional Status Webinar

Webinar Transcript

Yaritza Rodriguez

Could I have the next slide, please? I can move to the next slide. Great. Thank you, everyone, for joining today's webinar. My name is Yaritza Rodriguez. I'm a Communications Officer with USAID Advancing Nutrition, and we're happy to have you today. I'm going to be starting us off with some reminders about technology and going over some publicising tips and nuances.

First of all, we're happy to say that we have interpreters with us today and you are able to click on the interpretation icon to have the option to hear the meeting in French, Spanish or Arabic. Then to hear only the French, Spanish or Arabic interpreter, please select mute original audio. Please go ahead and do that. I'll give folks a few moments to be able to read the screen and follow the instructions. It's interpretation in those three languages that we have today. We'll also be recording the webinar in each of the three languages as well as English and providing that after today's events.

Some reminders. If at any point during today's webinar you're unable to hear the speakers, please make sure you've connected your audio by selecting the headphones icon if ever you become disconnected. Please send a message to everyone in the chat box, as I said, to introduce yourself or send in your comments or ask for technical support or technology support during today's webinar. Today, we'll be using the question and answer box. That's something you should be able to access in your Zoom controls.

Please submit your questions for the panelists in the question and answer box, and that panelists will either reply back to you in the Q&A box or we'll answer your question during the live discussion portion of the webinar. Finally, note that if you do have any trouble with any of the Zoom functions, rest assured this webinar is being recorded, as I mentioned, and it will be made available on the USAID Advancing Nutrition website afterwards. Now I'll hand it over to my colleague, Vrinda.

Vrinda Mehra

Thank you, Yaritza. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening and welcome to today's webinar. To get us started, I would like to introduce today's speaker. Given the short time we have for today's session, I will only include their name and affiliation. You can find more about the speakers on the event page on the USAID Advancing Nutrition website.

Chika Hayashi is a Senior Advisor in Monitoring and Statistics and Chief of the Nutrition Data Unit in the Data and Analytics Section at UNICEF. Giovanna Gatica-Dominguez is a Nutritionist and Technical Officer in the Monitoring Nutritional Status and Food Safety units in the Nutrition and Food Safety Department at WHO. Maggie Holmesheoran is a Nutrition Advisor at USAID's Bureau for

Humanitarian Assistance. I would now like to invite our first speaker, Maggie, to get us through the analytical framework. Over to you, Maggie.

Maggie Holmesheoran

Thank you so much, Vrinda. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to all of you. We're very happy to have you with us today to talk about this piece of work, which has been a big focus for us the last year and a half as a group. First, I wanted to tell you-- Next slide, please, John. First I wanted to tell you a little bit about the group that developed this framework. For some years now, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and USAID have been meeting at a regular interval to discuss monitoring and measurement challenges for nutrition.

We decided to formalize the group a few years ago into what we call the Agile Core Team for Nutrition Monitoring and USAID's Advancing Nutrition, which is USAID's flagship multi-sectoral nutrition program has been administrating and participating in that group as well for the past few years. As we formed ourselves together, the pandemic was happening and one of the things that we were noticing also because of interaction with standing together for nutrition is that because nutrition is so multifactorial, we often struggle to have the data that we need rapidly at the beginning of a shock or a crisis that helps to drive decision-making.

Some other sectors are quicker in terms of their ability to bring model data to the table very, very early to help drive financing and policy decision-making during a shock. We decided that we would work on a framework that was focused on analytical purposes in order to make that process easier in the future. We worked on the COVID-19 and nutrition analytical framework. The purposes, as you can see displayed on the screen here are, first of all, to help policymakers and people who actually design and run programs, understand what causal pathways some a large shock like the COVID-19 pandemic has on nutrition.

What are all of the facets of the shock and how it affects different aspects of nutritional status? We wanted to help those policymakers and programmers understand that so that they could plan their programs and the policy approaches that they were thinking of around something that had a logical pathway. We also wanted something that can help us to be faster in the future at modeling what the nutrition impacts of a shock would be.

We realized that in order to be able to model its incredibly dependent on the quality of the data that we actually have available. You can't make a very reliable model without good-quality data and so we made it an important part of this exercise to do a data gap analysis and to look at the assumptions and common uses for data that were happening in this space.

Then we ultimately wanted to provide for end users, whether they're on the policy end of things are programmers, a systematic approach for framing future pandemics and other kinds of shocks, because we realized that we didn't really have a functional way to do this for a variety of shocks. We're using COVID-19 as the sort of nascent example of that but wanted to do something that would be applicable to other kinds of shocks. Next slide, please.

The process that we went through as a group is, first, we did an in-depth literature review where we looked at references that talked about nutrition causal pathways, as well as what conceptual frameworks were already out there. Through that process, we narrowed this down to 66 different references that we used to frame our thinking. There were 20 different conceptual frameworks that we found. 19 had something to do with COVID-19 and nutrition and six were pre-pandemic ones.

Then we consulted a variety of subject matter experts and got their thoughts on how we could frame this going forward. As you can see on the right side, there's a whole lot of different ways to frame this thinking and we wanted to do something consolidated that would make the causal pathways really clear for a data and analytics conversation, so that in the future when modeling efforts needed to come to bear, that would be more possible.

Next slide please, John. Thank you. We found out some very interesting things that flip some of our assumptions on their heads. Things that were, during the pandemic, viewed in certain spheres and maybe higher-income countries as being helpful but not necessarily helpful in the lower and middle-income countries that our work often happens in. The first example that we looked at here is regarding the mother-infant dyad.

Generally, the infant deaths and low and middle-income countries from COVID-19 was really low but then without adding in the consideration of what separation does to the mother-infant dyad in terms of nutritional status and thrive was a consideration that wasn't necessarily being represented. If a mom has COVID and has to separate from their newborn and the newborn is unable to breastfeed, that significantly increases the potential for additional deaths compared to what the actual deaths related to COVID directly are.

In terms of education, I know that in higher-income countries often we were very excited about the developments we made in the virtual and remote learning space for children, that it was possible for them to still go to school while the pandemic was happening and there were lockdowns and restrictions, but that in the countries that were often investing in and working in lower mental income countries there was the opposite effect. Women and girls are already on the back foot in terms of their access to education. Because online classrooms demand resources, it became much more difficult for the educational efforts that are already really difficult and take a lot of focus in some of those contexts to continue.

There was actually a further debilitation and disadvantage for women and girls in those countries around education. Then looking at gender as well, it was really important for us to consider the gender lens here because women already take on the lion's share of caregiving and unpaid labor in the home. That was the volume was turned up significantly on that during the pandemic because then, all of a sudden, they have children at home all day and a lot of other things to manage in addition to the stress and worry about exposure and health risk and all of that stuff.

What our literature review found is that women are much more likely than men to experience stress and burnout. They were significantly more likely to report that they have way more to do than is possible for them to do in a day. That has a direct relationship to caregiving practice and how especially small children are taken care of in the home. We were considering all of these different angles as we put together the framework. Next slide, please, John.

This is what we ended up coming up with, and I'll walk you through this a little bit. Knowing that Chika, my colleague, will take you through an online tool that visualizes all of this, that's clickable at in a few minutes. The way that we frame this is that you see along the top, we went from the large circle zoomed down into the smaller circle in the way that we looked at the pathway of impact.

On the left side, you can see that we have pre-pandemic environmental considerations. This would be things like whether or not the country's having an existing and emergency, what the political situation is, all of that. Then here the big yellow bar is the covid track. Then we talked about these different frames of context that are driving the way that things happen in society, whether it's availability of resources, the financial situation of a country or a region. What is the governments like and what is the sociocultural context? What are all those dynamics? Then we have underlying determinants here, food, health, social protection, education, and water and sanitation systems.

Then immediate determinants that we often think of that are very, very proximal to an actual nutrition outcome. For the nutrition outcomes that we decided to use, as you can imagine, the outcomes were many in the literature review, but we decided to focus on the world health assembly nutrition outcomes because we felt like that would be a better set of outcomes to use that everyone could agree on.

Then in terms of impact, we looked at three different impacts, mortality, morbidity, and then the effects on human capital. Next slide, please, John. You'll see here, the text is very tiny. Chika will take you through it in a little bit in the visualizer format, but within each of those determinants and outcomes, you have a different set of statements about the directionality of impact. Within the visualizer tool, you can click into all of those and see the references and impact pathways for that.

Next slide, please. Basically, what we wanted to accomplish with this is that we wanted to capture wider impacts of the pandemic, aside from just direct mortality related to having covid, we wanted something to be actionable for decision-makers in the future. We wanted it to be related to both children and adults, not focused on a specific target group. We wanted it to be relatable across a variety of income-level contexts for the countries that we looked at. Next slide, please. Now I'll turn it over to Giovanna who will talk about our data mapping exercise and case studies.

Giovanna Gatica-Domínguez

Thank you, Maggie. I will share my screen now. This is the data mapping tool that you can access through the nutrition visual analyzer that Chika will present today. You can download it there. In the first tab, we can see the cover page when we have the analytical framework in the left side, and in the right side, we have some instructions on how to use this data mapping tool. We have bottoms to move to the different tabs in the data mapping tool.

As we can see, we have the methods and dictionary of this data mapping tool. We can know how we get all the data sources, also, we have an explanation of what the column name and the description of each column of the following tabs. These tabs are the sections of the analytical framework. We prepare a tab for each section of, for example, the enable determinants, underlying determinants, immediate determinants, outcome, and impact.

We can see in the blue tabs all the sections of the analytical framework. Then we can see great bottoms when we see, for example, the first is the data mapping by country, and we can see how a data sources we have for each country, specifically for each indicator. We have analytic framework. We can click on this bottom in the corner and we can come back to the cover page.

We can see also a summary table of all the data sources that we obtain until August 2021 and the data gaps identified so far in all countries. We also can see what are the ongoing global service. Maybe some of them I finish already, but we have an idea of some global service that is ongoing. This is a very quick view of the data mapping tool. Now I will present the case slides. John, can you please share the presentation? Thank you. Also to control.

Can I have access to move forward? Thank you. Now, this is the wasting pathway that we develop for Chad when we observe a slightly increment in the prevalence and the national level from 2020 to 2021. We search for data on each of these factors in the pathway using the data mapping tool, and we were able to find information for all of them in this case.

I am going to present the temporality of the events that took place before and during the pandemic in Chad that may explain the absurd increase in waste. We can observe that wasting prevalence decreased from 13.5% in September 2018 to 12% in August 2019. The COVID pandemic was declared in March 2020. In Chad stringency, moment restrictions were implemented in mid-March.

The strictest measures in country were from April to mid-May, since the stringency index was greater than 80, considering that the highest value of this index is 100. Because of the pandemic in May and June

was carried out, the first wave of COVID-19, a high-frequency fund service. At that moment, 58% of the communities reported a reduce ability to meet basic needs, and 11% of the households reported loss of income. Additionally, 13% of the households were unable to perform farming activities while 69% of the households were impacted by increments in the food prices.

Already at that time, 35% of the households reported having copying strategies such as reducing food consumption, and 11% refers to having reliance on less preferred foods.

The next two months was carry out the second wave of the COVID-19 high-frequency fund survey. At that point, 2.4 million of people refer having sufficient food while 5.1 million experienced chronic hunger. At the end of 2020, the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding was 16.4% and wasting prevalence was 9.5%.

This was based on data from a National nutrition survey as we observed a decline in the trend of wasting prevalence from 2018 to 2020. In December of 2020, wasting treatment programs were scaled up and it was reported that in the first quarter of 2021, admissions increased between 10% and 24% compared with the first quarter of the previous year.

In September 2021, the prevalence of stool suppress feeding in this in September decrease to 11.4%, and this drop could be due to fear on mother-to-child transmission of the SARS-CoV-2. On the other hand, we also had a slight increase in the wasting prevalence compared with the prevalence in 2020, most likely the measures implemented in the health system help mitigate a further increase in waste.

Now, I will explain the pathway of overweight in children that we develop for Peru when we observe as increment in the prevalence at the national level from 2020 to 2021. As for Chad, we search for data for all the factors in this pathway using the data mapping tool. However, we only obtained information of the stringency movement restriction index.

We found that the stringency movement restriction started in March 2020, and the strictest measures were from May to October of that year since the Stringency index was higher than 95% from 100. Due to the strictness in stringency movement restrictions, families and their children who have been more exposed to food marketing and online food shopping and delivery services operate package food, that could have led to a change in the food consumption patterns.

At the same time, the stringency movement restrictions led to a reduction in the physical activity of all members in the households and an increase in the screen time. Therefore, changes in these two key factors most likely contributed to an increase in the prevalence of overweight in children under pipe from 2020 to 2021. Although there is a lack of data at the country level to compare the pathway presented here, it is based on extensive published evidence on the subject. Now I will move to Yaritza. Thank you.

Yaritza Rodriguez

Thank you. We would like to ask you all to respond to these questions. This question that we have here for you. How do you envision utilizing this framework in your country? To answer and respond to the question, please click on the link shared in the chat or it can be shared more momentarily, or you can go to mentee.com and enter the code shared there on the screen. Please take a moment to respond to this question by using either the code or using the link pasted in the chat both to send you to the correct place, the response to the question.

Please do let us know if you're having any trouble accessing the answers submission website. Okay, so I see there are a few responses coming in. I will share those responses in just a moment. Please continue to submit your responses to this question. Please just check, are we seeing the responses on the screen? Great. Please do continue to submit the responses to the question, "How do you envision Utilizing this framework in your country?" Great. I can see that everyone should be able to see the responses now.

We have many coming in. Please continue to submit them. We'll give a few brief moments for folks to continue submitting responses. You see there's some more. Great. All right. I think over to Chika now to give a brief overview of the analytical framework.

Chika Hayashi

Great, Thank you. Please let me know when you can see my screen.

Yaritza Rodriguez

Yes, we can see it.

Chika Hayashi

Great. What I will be doing is to do a quick walkthrough of this online platform. We've made the analytical framework available online as a visualizer, and hopefully, can I ask maybe Vrinda to put in the chat the link to this framework, the online version of it? When you get to this website, the first thing you'll see is this high-level view of the analytical framework as we saw in Maggie's presentation.

You can click in, on various headings to see some of the details. Let me just click on governance here and you'll see that some evidence we found in relation to COVID is obviously the physical distancing restrictions, we saw a decrease in social sector investments. We saw funding being diverted to COVID responses from other investments like the social sector.

We saw a decrease in global trade and some supply issues, decreasing businesses, increase in travel restrictions, and also disruption to data systems as well. For each of these boxes, if you click, so let me just click this one as an example. You will see some of the background literature and evidence we found that supported an impact or an effect on each of these effects due to COVID.

I won't go through all of them but let's just look at food systems very quickly here. Again, if you click on any of these, you'll see some of the disruptions we've found or some of the impact of COVID on these different boxes. Again, if you click on it, you'll see some of the evidence that we found here, which you can download. Let me just click these back in.

Again, this is a high-level view and if you come down here, there's a button called Expand All. When you click on this, you see the expanded view and the full framework here. The other thing I wanted to mention is down here, and so this is the expanded view, and again, if you click to collapse all, you'll see the high-level view.

To the right here, there's a button called example pathways. Here I won't go into details, but you'll see a simple example of how COVID, for example, impacted stunting in a pathway that we saw in the country with a short description here. Just to say, it's not that-- I think it's very clear also from Giovanna's presentations that it's not that there's only one example pathway in different contexts and even within different countries in different settings, there could be multiple pathways in which wasting or low birth weight, or anemia is impacted.

This feature is not available yet but later on, we will be having a feature called Build Your Own Pathway. Right now, it says Coming soon, but essentially, you will be able to use our framework here and draw your own pathways and for example, print it and use it in your discussions with people, insert it in documents or insert it into your PowerPoint presentations.

The last thing I wanted to show you about this online tool is this download button. Here you can download our technical notes, you can download the Excel file that Giovanna took us through with all the data sources that we found on these various elements within these boxes and there's also a generic PowerPoint presentation with slides on the framework.

Maybe, John, we can go back to the slides. Great. Where we are right now is we developed a technical note and a data mapping tool which you can download from this website.

We're trying to disseminate the analytical framework in various ways, for example, through this webinar, but in various regional meetings, and through social media and other forms and email notifications. We will be having an oral presentation of this framework in December at the ICN conference.

In terms of next steps, what we would really like to do is work with countries to apply this framework and really think through well the multi-sectoral responses in a country or quantify how recent crises may have affected the nutrition situation in their population. Another thing we'd really like to work on is to continue to collect and consolidate evidence that will help the international community be more prepared.

I think Giovanna mentioned the data mapping exercise and show the Excel sheet. Another area where we may focus our efforts is on documenting the impact and effect of shocks and nutrition. Not just a lot of the baseline data that exists around these different factors, but, for example, to look at how food prices fluctuated during the current crisis. Also, look at how, for example, food inflation may affect, various population diets and bring that all together so that there is a repository of evidence onto different factors in our framework that people can use.

Our group, of course, has a very strong interest because we are a monitoring group, but we have a very strong interest in strengthening data systems, we would really like to use the framework to identify data gaps and try to address them, for example, through guidance on how to collect that particular information where we see lots of gaps across different countries or to support data collection in particular contexts. Thank you. Over back to you, Vrinda.

Vrinda

Thank you, Chika. Thank you, Maggie and Giovanna, for all your great presentations today. We would now spend the next 10 to 15 minutes looking at some of the questions that have come into the question and answer box. Also, please continue to type your questions in there and we would try to get through as many as possible. Just to get us started, I see there are a couple of questions around just discussing what is the scope of this particular analytical framework.

Given that this analytical framework was primarily developed to assess the impact of COVID-19 on nutrition outcomes, it would be helpful to understand how this group envisions adapting this analytical framework to other shocks, and other shocks that may come during future times. Another related question to this is that in your examples and in the framework, how do you account for other shocks that may have affected outcomes like declining oil prices and recession in Chad, or other non-COVID-related factors? Chika, if you could start, and then Maggie if you could pitch into that as well. Thank you.

Chika Hayashi

Sure. Thank you, Vrinda. That's a great question and this framework really tries to capture as Maggie already mentioned the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition.

For example, the evidence that you will see in our online tool is based on COVID because that's how we started doing this but you could apply this framework to the current Ukraine crisis, oil shocks, and Chad as well to look at what are all the different factors that are affected through these shocks in a particular country and look at repercussions for that.

Just to use an example of Ukraine, the repercussions of the Ukraine crisis is not the same everywhere. Countries that are more dependent on wheat importation, especially from Ukraine, are much more effective than other countries that produce wheat in their own country. The idea is that you can actually use it in different instances.

It can be the oil shocks, it can be economic or political crises, and it can also really be used to think through designing a multi-sector response to improve the nutrition of your population with or without a shock, and then when a shock hits to really look and think about, wow, which of these different factors are affected the most in my country and what should the response be? It can really be applied to multiple purposes. Thanks.

Maggie Holmesheoran:

I can add to that as well and say that the directionality in which we developed this was first starting to think about COVID as a very salient example of a massive shock that would have nutrition ramifications. We tried to codify that in the way that this framework was developed. I also think that it can be reversed out to say, okay, we understand that there is functionally these different sets of underlying determinants that are going to have an effect on any nutrition conversation that you're going to have.

Even though the references that we have attached to the framework right now, many of them are related specifically to COVID, you could also take the framework as a jumping-off point to look for something related to shocks that you're currently experiencing or that maybe are cyclical in the context that you work in like for example flooding. Some countries have cyclical annual flooding cycles, and there may be literature around that specifically. The tricky part of this though is that for something that's unprecedented like COVID, you're building the vote as you're sailing it.

All of the literature is being written as you're running alongside trying to develop a conceptual framework for how this all works. That may be the case for other future shocks like the Ukraine food price crisis that's been happening because of the war Ukraine. It is an unprecedented thing. We've had other types of price shocks, but this on top of a pandemic, I don't know if we've seen this before in recent years. I think that you can drive it in either direction. You can use it as a jumping-off point to customize it to your own situation if that's helpful. Over.

Vrinda Mehra

Thanks, Maggie and Chika. The next question is around data mapping and I would like to direct it to Giovanna. There are two questions around Giovanna, why is it important that countries fill the data gaps, and a related question is, what are the main challenges with the current available data?

Giovanna Gatica-Domínguez

Okay. It is important to fill these gaps because in that way, we can analyze the impact of COVID in nutrition indicators. When we did the exercise to do the data mapping tool and we observe some gaps in some countries that we observe, for example, in this case, Peru, for example, but there is other countries. It's important so we can analyze what was the impact of COVID in this case.

The challenge of the available data is that not all data is comparable across countries specifically about some factors. We have some of them that they are comparable because in every country they are collected in the same way. We can compare, but in other factors, we don't. The challenge is trying to harmonize this data in order to compare what was the impact of the differences across countries. Thank you.

Vrinda Mehra

Thanks, Giovanna. Chika and Maggie, you both alluded to the global food crisis that is currently ongoing due to the Ukraine crisis. We have a question from our audience that if we continue to have food problems, what are we going to do about it and how can we use this analytical tool for planning purposes and to help with this current crisis? Maggie, do you want to get started?

Maggie Holmesheoran

I'm happy to get-- Sorry, I was on mute. I'm happy to get started. I think what we are looking for in terms of next steps with all of this is to try out using this framework across a variety of use cases in real time. If you are working in a country where you think that you'd like to have a conversation using this analytical framework as the foundation for that to understand what's going on nutritionally, how to track that over time, that's something we would be very interested in participating in with you because we are looking to map out outside of COVID or concurrent to COVID the aftereffects of the pandemic is relevant for the current conversation about nutrition. I think that there's a lot of possibilities with this and we're looking to document those things as a next step. Over to Chika.

Chika Hayashi

Thanks. Just maybe to add, I think the way you would use it is going to you would look at the framework and say, okay, so what is the problem I'm having with food in my country and what is driving that? In the examples we showed from Giovanna, we started from left to right, but you can actually just go directly to the food system as well and say, what is the problem we're having? Where are the biggest problems? Then think back to why is it that I'm having these food problems?

Is it the governance? Are there resources, Is it a supply issue? Then come up with interventions for all of those things. I forgot to mention earlier about, we purposefully really try to dive into the different sectors. For example, the food system, the health system wash, and education, because we felt these are sectors where we can actually directly intervene to improve the problem in these sectors to improve nutrition outcomes. We hope the framework will be useful when going to discussing and really thinking about the food crisis that we're facing now. Again, we'd be happy to join some of your discussions as well as we've started doing in other countries. Thanks.

Vrinda Mehra

Thank you both. Then another question that has been coming in is, and, Giovanna, this would be directed to you, which tools are required to really collect some of this data that you've shown in the analytical framework. Could you talk a bit about that, please?

Giovanna Gatica-Domínguez

Sorry, can you repeat that question?

Vrinda Mehra

Which tools are required to affect this data collection? What type of tools would be needed to collect data around some of the boxes that we have shown in the analytical framework and also in broad data mapping exercise? What sorts of data sources were you looking at?

Giovanna Gatica-Domínguez

Some of them can be in the national service, for example. Some of them, for example, in the case of Chad, it was a national survey that was implementing new questions, especially to access the impact of COVID. This can be, I know that it has to be considered also the cost of this other, it can be to improve the administrative data.

Some of them can be used if we have a very good quality of data and a good coverage especially. Well, in this case, there were some online service, for example. The problem with this is the coverage also, but this was something that start in this case when we start with COVID pandemic. There is different type of sources that we can apply.

I think that these are some examples that in our case we did some of this search at the global level, global database, but also, we did some a country database service. That we obtain the information. There is different type of sources and the data mapping tool, you can see these two types and you can see what is the difference of this type of data and the country service we see more detail, more information that it was facilitate the analysis of the impact.

The global database, sometimes it was more difficult because there was not a specific or detail information. The idea is try to obtain the data, try to do it in a more comparable way, also harmonize to be able to do the analysis of the impact of COVID

Vrinda Mehra

Thank you so much, Giovanna. Chika, I have another question for you. Can the tool be used to make better trade offs in case of future pandemics? For example, what interventions during the pandemic should be avoided to reduce harm?

Chika Hayashi

That's a great question. That would be one great use of the tool. The tool in its current form can be used to think about, well, what are all the different drivers and factors and what are some different interventions that we can maybe employ? In terms of trade-offs, we need some data, frankly, we need some data and some evidence on what the trade-offs are. We can talk about, is it a cost? Is it a trade-off in terms of outcomes, what's the opportunity costs, and one of the things, as I mentioned, as the next steps that we might want to try to do is to build that evidence base?

Some of these common questions that we're faced with, or we were faced with, for example, during COVID. As Maggie said, we couldn't quickly model it to think about these questions and have the build that evidence base. When we do want to model something, people don't need to start from scratch to try to find all the evidence, but we have a repository of that evidence. Just to summarize, I think there's potential to do it right now the framework can be used to give you a generic framework to think about the different trade-offs. All the evidence for that trade-off isn't there. Of course, sometimes it's also context specific. You might need to be collecting data for it. Thanks.

Vrinda Mehra

Thank you, Chika. We have different types of scenarios coming in from our audiences. It would just be, again, good to highlight how this tool can be really adopted in different situations. Maggie, there is a question about in Uganda, the lengthy lockdown saw an increase in teenage pregnancy, followed by school dropout rates. Could you talk us through how this framework could address this potential scenario?

Maggie Holmesheoran

Sure, I think that you work from left to right in the framework as you're looking at the tool, and you would need to find the subset of determinant that you think is driving that. certainly, there's the education component. Then also there is the early childbearing component of that, and the maternal health and caregiving aspect. This would be a great example about how you could make your own customized pathway using evidence that you have from your unique context, to demonstrate how a shock is affecting, ultimately, nutritional outcomes.

What the framework would help you to do is to see for things that are more proximal to those World Health Assembly outcomes, what does teenage pregnancy do to the nutritional status of a certain percentage of the population for small children? We know that there's related, low birth weight is more common in young maternal pregnancy. That affects long-term nutritional outcomes, like stunting, for example, it's actually a primary driver of stunting.

You're taking this unique observation you have from your context, and you're able to plug it into a larger conversation about the systems that are driving that, as well as how those determinants play out in terms of outcomes and impact in the future. You could use the framework to build your own pathway. Then for whatever policy or programming purpose, you need to demonstrate the potential impacts, you could use it in that way to justify your approach. Over.

Vrinda Mehra

Thanks, Maggie. We have another few minutes to go over the questions. I see another question from the audience. Chika, could you talk a bit about, are there plans to update this framework? Is it updated on an ongoing basis or was it a cross-section in a single time point?

Chika Hayashi

Let's say, the evidence base behind each of the boxes was done over a period of several months, during COVID. We haven't updated it, for example, in the past few months. I think we do need-- As you all know, doing COVID the amount of, let's say evidence or publications available really massively increased. It's a lot of work to keep this updated. We did talk about it with a group and we do need to rethink what is what's the most efficient way whether we need to update it is the utility or framework to just always be up to date and to have the latest evidence.

Yes, just to think through we did the work to develop this framework, and the next step is to think through what is the periodicity if we do want to update it. I think what we might end up doing is it's hard to update all the evidence behind every little box all the time and we might choose particular areas of interest and really try to get all the evidence-based behind that and build a repository then perhaps move on another topic.

Vrinda Mehra

Thank you, Chika. Giovanna, I saw that you answered, you typed out the answer to this question, but since we have time, could you once again come in and talk about the Peru case study. Audience wanted to know that, is there evidence that more packaged food was used in Peru because in India they saw the evidence of the opposite?

Giovanna Gatica-Domínguez

Yes. When we were looking information data about the case of Peru, we observed that there were not a specific information in children. We found a lot of scientific information in adults so we can infer in a way that if adults in the family have these exposures, also the children or maybe more. Also, there were information from the government, for example, from Peru saying that they were worried about these changes in lifestyle due to the situation. All of these made us give us the information to do this assumptions in the example I put in the case of Peru.

Vrinda Mehra

Thank you, Giovanna. I would like to bring the Q&A session to close, but I would like all three of our panelists to just leave us with their final thoughts around what do they see as next steps for this analytical framework. Any final thoughts on those? Maggie, do you want to go first then Giovanna and Chika?

Maggie Holmesheoran

I'm happy to go first. Our hope for the next steps for this is certainly internally we're discussing whether or not we need to do another update of evidence because there has been new evidence, the new data generated since we did this exercise. The second thing I'm hoping will come out of this is that we want to drive a larger conversation about data availability and quality globally because it's very uneven,

Giovanna's deep dive on the data that would drive the ability to make a model for any of this is very enlightening.

I hope you all download her Excel sheet and look at it with interest because it's, for me, a very key and important piece of this work. I'd like to use that as a springboard to talk about how we can't make decisions if we don't have good data globally. Then third, I'd really love to hear from you all as a community of practice that would use this about what your use cases are for this framework. If you'd like to involve us in a larger conversation about using the framework in your context. Over to Chika.

Chika Hayashi

Giovanna, if that's okay, maybe I'll go first. Yes, I don't want to repeat what Maggie said, but I think what's great about this is that we always talk about how a multi-sectoral response for nutrition, but this provides a concrete way in which you can actually build that and track that multi-sectoral response. I do hope that we can start using this to really bring that to action then I didn't want to repeat what Maggie said, but I think I just wanted to emphasize that I really think one of the things we would really like to do is fill data gaps, knowledge gaps and evidence gaps so that as an international community we are more prepared next time.

A shock hits us and it seems to continue to hit us so I think this is new business as usual and we do need to be prepared for that. I think UNICEF, USAID, and WHO coming together really helps us bring our comparative advantages and speak with one voice and consolidate all the evidence that we can find together. Thanks. Maybe over to you, Giovanna.

Giovanna Gatica-Domínguez

Thank you. I think both of you talk about, I was thinking also the main thing is that for me is to apply this framework in the context and the countries so we can see also how is the applicability of this in specific context. Identify the data gaps, that's important for everyone so we can know how is the impact in all the crisis. I think it's important also to consider the data mapping tool in this case. You can see if there is other information, for example, that maybe can be added in this data mapping tool that maybe is not public available or is difficult to access, that would be better to improve our work too. Thank you.

Vrinda Mehra

Thank you so much to all our speakers for their excellent presentations and demonstrations today. Also, I would like to thank all of the participants for their interest, engagement and questions. I would now be bringing this webinar to a close, but just wanted to note that you will receive an email with a link to a recording of today's webinar and related materials. Please, do take a few minutes to complete the short survey that accompanies the email. It was so great that you could join us. Thank you.



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