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## RBB's Atlas on FNG and analytical tools for nutrition

Quick reference for thematic coverage, materials, and utilisation of Fill the Nutrient Gap results in Asia-Pacific countries and expanded SAN toolbox for further analytics and advocacy

May 2022

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## Introduction

### In brief – what is SAN and what is the FNG?

Since 2016, the Regional Bureau Bangkok (RBB) and the Systems Analysis for Nutrition (SAN) team, a sub-team of WFP's Nutrition Division's Analytics and Science for Food and Nutrition (AS4FN) Team, have coordinated to execute cost and affordability analysis in the Asia-Pacific Region. SAN's primary product is the [Fill the Nutrient Gap \(FNG\)](#), a 6–12-month analysis supported technically by SAN in coordination with RBB and led by a government stakeholder and the WFP country office. The analysis focuses on gaps in dietary intake to inform national policies and actions that can be taken across food, social protection, and health systems to improve nutrition, with a focus on the most vulnerable populations. The FNG process identifies and models the impacts of context-appropriate interventions to improve diets and nutrient intake across food, health, education, and social protection systems. The results are used to identify entry points across systems, to refine programmes, and to make recommendations to policymakers.

The assessment comprises two components:

- An assessment of the extent to which economic barriers prevent adequate nutrient intake through estimation of the cost and non-affordability of energy-sufficient and nutrient-adequate diets. This uses the Cost of the Diet (CotD) linear programming software developed by Save the Children (UK) and includes modelling of the impact on cost and affordability, used to compare potential of impact of different interventions and combinations thereof.
- A country-specific review of secondary data and information on factors that reflect or affect dietary intake. This includes malnutrition trends over time, characteristics of the food system and food environment, and population behaviour related to food and feeding.

### Purpose of this document

Between 2016 and 2021, RBB and SAN have carried out FNG analyses in 13 countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. During these five years, FNG results have served a variety of uses, including providing inputs for policies, country strategic plans, or evidence for advocacy. In 2019/2020, the SAN team conducted an evaluation with FNG results end-users who have been involved in setting up, carrying out, or receiving and applying the FNG results in 11 different countries. This evaluation found that, often, country offices (COs) and the regional bureaus (RBx) face challenges in knowing where and how to apply FNG results and are often unclear on what SAN resources are available to them. The purpose of this document is to enable CO management, strategic outcome managers, program and nutrition officers and users of the FNG data and findings to understand the FNG process and requirements. Additionally, the document serves to provide additional support for future creation and utilization of FNG results and other nutrition analytics specifically in the Asia-Pacific region by WFP colleagues. Concretely, this atlas has the following objectives:

- **Orientation:** Assist CO and RBB in finding existing FNG results relevant to their needs
- **Utilization:** Provide information on how FNG results have been and can be used by both WFP and external stakeholders
- **Translation:** Guide the translation of FNG results into messages which can be utilized in advocacy, strategy or policy documents
- **Application:** Make CO and RBB staff aware of the SAN toolbox, and how SAN can support non-FNG nutrition analytics

- **Planning:** Inform CO and RBB staff to determine if they have the required capacities, budget, time and environment to conduct an FNG analysis or other type of analytical exercise, and better understand what factors enable or detract from uptake of results

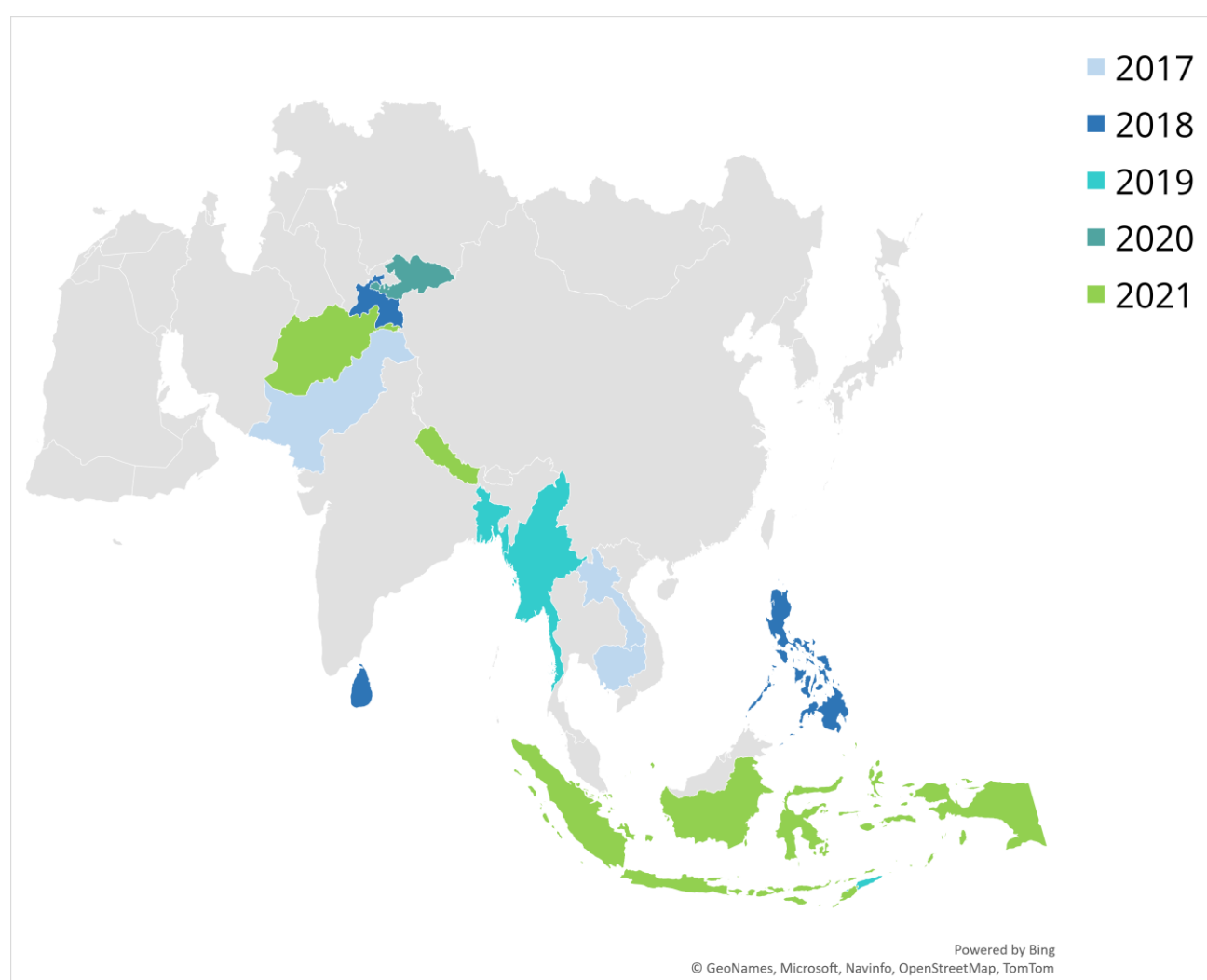
This document also references the Atlas annex, which is intended for internal WFP use. For information on budget, detailed FNG workplans, links to past FNG data, and checklists to prepare for an FNG analysis, please click [here](#) to obtain WFP internal guidance.

## Section 1: FNGs in Asia Pacific Countries (2016-2021)

### Thematic Coverage by Country

This section provides an overview of the FNG analyses carried out in AP region over the period 2016 to 2021 and their respective thematic focus.

*Figure 1: Countries where FNGs have been conducted by dissemination year in Asia-Pacific region*



The selection of topics and themes included in each analysis depend on stakeholder inputs and government priorities. Table 1 provides an overview of the themes considered in each respective FNG analysis in AP. Additionally, SAN has published global thematic briefs on [fortification](#), [cash-based](#)

[transfers, minimum expenditure baskets, fragile settings, social protection for human capital development](#), and [schools meals for healthy diets](#).

Table 1: Thematic coverage for each FNG conducted in RBB Region

		Overweight and Obesity	School Feeding	Social Protection & CBT	Food system	Rice fortification	Food fortification	NS-agriculture	Resilience	Retail	Gender	SBCC	Climate change	WASH	Refugee response	Urban
Central Asia	Kyrgyzstan (															
	Tajikistan															
	Cambodia															
	Indonesia															
East Asia and Pacific	Indonesia – 2021															
	Lao PDR															
	Myanmar															
	Philippines															
	Timor Leste															
	Afghanistan															
	Bangladesh															
	Nepal															
	Pakistan															
	Sri Lanka															
South Asia																

## Objectives of the FNG in the Asia-Pacific Region

### For Policy Analysis

Country offices have typically initiated an FNG analysis for the explicit purpose of providing inputs during national policy development or revision. Table 2 provides an overview of policies, plans, and strategies informed by the FNG.



Table 2: Policies, strategies, and plans influenced by FNG Results in Asia-Pacific Region

Country (start-end)		Year for price and expenditure data	Policy, Strategy or Plan	Policy, Strategy or Plan Year(s)	Purpose of the FNG
Central Asia	Kyrgyzstan (2019-2020)	2017	National Food Security and Nutrition Programme	2018-2023	FNG initiated to provide inputs
			Program of the Kyrgyz Republic Government on Public Health Protection and Health Care System Development	2019 - 2030	FNG initiated to provide inputs
			Social Development Programme	2018-2020	FNG initiated to provide inputs
			School Feeding Policy (Key Directions for Development of the School Meals Programme in the Kyrgyz Republic)	2014-2022	FNG initiated to provide inputs
	Tajikistan (2018)	2016/2017	National Comprehensive Results Framework for nutrition		FNG initiated to provide inputs
			Strategy for social and behaviour change communication around nutrition		FNG initiated to provide inputs
			food fortification legislation and implementation		FNG initiated to provide inputs
East Asia and Pacific	Cambodia (2017)	2017	National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition	2014-2018	FNG results included in strategy review
			Second National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition	2019-2023	FNG results included in strategy development
			National Protection Policy	2016-2025	FNG results included in revision
	Indonesia (2017)	2017	Bantuan Pangan Non-Tunai (BPNT) guideline		FNG initiated to provide inputs
	Indonesia (2021)	2019	Policy for Adolescent Health		FNG initiated to provide inputs
			National Planning Framework	2020-2024	FNG initiated to provide inputs
			Ministry of Social Affairs SEMBAKO programme policy		FNG initiated to provide inputs
	Lao PDR (2017)	2017	National Nutrition Action Plan for Nutrition (NPAN) development	2021-2026	FNG results included
	Myanmar (2018-2019)	2017	Multi-sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition	2018/19 - 2022/23	FNG results included in development
	Philippines (2018)	2015	Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition	2017-2022	FNG results included
			National Food Policy	2020	FNG results included
			Social Protection Review	2018	FNG results included
			National Nutrition Policy		FNG results included in revision
	Timor Leste (2019)	2019	National Nutrition Strategy (NNS)	2014-2019	FNG initiated to provide review and reformulation
South Asia	Afghanistan (2020 - 2021)	2019/2020	NA	NA	NA
	Bangladesh (2019)	2016	National Nutrition Policy (NNP)	2015	FNG initiated to provide inputs
			2 <sup>nd</sup> National Plan of Action for Nutrition	2016-2025	FNG initiated to provide inputs
			8th Five Year Plan of the Government of Bangladesh	2020-2025	FNG initiated to provide inputs
	Nepal (2020-2021)	2019/2020	Second National Multisector Nutritional Plan	2018-2022	FNG initiated to provide inputs for review
			Third National Multisector Nutritional Plan	2022-2027	FNG initiated to provide inputs for development
	Pakistan (2016-2017)	2013/2014	First National Food Security Policy	2018	Raised awareness for policy development
			WFP Country Strategic Plan	2018-2022	FNG results included
			The Pakistan Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy	2018-2025	Developed recommendations for policy
			Zero Hunger Policy Note	2018-2022	FNG results included
			Ehsaas Nashonuma package (part of BISP)	2017	FNG results included
Sri Lanka (2017 - 2018)	2016	Multi-Sector Action Plan for Nutrition	2018-2025	FNG results included	
		National Nutrition Policy	2010-2018	FNG initiated to provide revision	
		The National Food Fortification Work Plan		FNG initiated to provide inputs	

### To Inform Programming

Each FNG produces novel data and analytics. During the baseline analysis, the FNG provides new data on the cost and non-affordability of diets. During the intervention modelling phase, the FNG gathers inputs from stakeholders, including WFP program colleagues, on on-going or potential interventions which could improve access to nutritious diets. Modelling the interventions from fortification, agriculture, nutrition-specific programs, social protection, school feeding, and others, on top of the baseline cost and affordability results allows stakeholders to estimate the impact a given intervention could have on reducing the cost of the diet for the household or a specific individual, reducing non-affordability for the household, or improving micronutrient intake for the household or a specific individual. The models therefore provide evidence on the efficacy of specific interventions. Combined with secondary data, results from the models are used as a basis for the development of programming and policy recommendations. Examples from models differ across FNGs; to find if modelling was conducted for a specific sector or programming area, refer to Table 1.

FNG results in Asia-Pacific have been used to inform initiatives in collecting and managing data on nutrition and sectoral programs that directly serve program beneficiaries. Table 3 provides examples from the Philippines and Pakistan on how FNG results have influenced specific programs.

*Table 3: Examples of programmatic findings and outcomes related to FNG findings from the Philippines and Pakistan*

	Programmatic Area	FNG Findings	Programmatic Take-up
Philippines	<i>School Feeding</i>	FNG compared the nutritional intake targets set by the Dept. of Education to WFP's new international guidelines for school meal programmes. Current programming targets are below WFP's recommended values of micronutrients including vitamin B1, pantothenic acid, folic acid, calcium, iron and zinc.	Feeding Programs (Pre-schoolers, School Age Children) were redesigned towards universal feeding targets (Global School Meals Coalition)
	<i>Fortification and Social Protection</i>	The CotD found that if the current food-assistance package were to include iron-fortified rice with the current premix instead of standard rice, the cost of a nutritious diet would reduce by 8 percent.	The Family Food Pack (GFD) was enhanced to include iron-fortified rice
	<i>Fortification</i>	Only 2 percent of rice is fortified although law mandates iron fortification. CotD analysis found rice blended with a 1:100 ratio could reduce the cost of a nutritious diet by up to 21 percent for a household, while rice blended with a 1:200 ratio and iron-fortified rice with higher iron content in premix could reduce the cost of a nutritious diet by an additional 13 percent.	These results contributed to national dialogues around the benefits of scaling up rice fortification and adding additional micronutrients (in addition to iron) programs
	<i>Social Protection</i>	The current national minimum daily wage is not enough to cover the daily cost of the nutritious diet for a five-person household.	The Department of Labour and Employments to advocate for improved daily minimum wages to increase economic access to nutritious food; improving coverage, quality.
Pakistan	<i>Social Protection</i>	FNG results show that a combined household package of targeted interventions including SNF and local nutritious foods, plus a cash transfer, has the greatest impact on improving the non-affordability of the nutritious diet at the household level across provinces.	The Ehsaas Nashonuma conditional cash package (BISP) incorporates SNFs into transfer package; BISP and WFP coordinate on a policy and road map for the commercialization of specialized complementary foods for key target groups.
	<i>Fortification</i>	If wheat flour were fortified up to Pakistani standards and available in the marketplace, the cost of the diet could	WFP launches small-scale wheat flour fortification

		reduce diet cost by 4%, but fill additional nutrient gaps for adolescent girls, reducing her diet cost by 6%. The combination of a cash transfer and provision of fortified wheat flour can reduce non-affordability of the nutritious diet from 60% to 40% in Punjab Province.	
	<i>Nutrition data availability</i>	The FNG emphasized that continued efforts to understand the nutrition situation and to collaborate multisectorally are required to improve nutrition.	FNG provided additional motivation for the Ministry of National Food Security and Research established the Food Security and Nutrition Information System as a central repository to provide a consolidated view of national data on food security and nutrition. The project aims to establish a web based information system to expand data availability and exchange and incorporate forward-looking analytical products.

### *Country Strategic Plans (CSPs)*

FNG results are commonly used to inform CSPs, specifically to provide information on the current nutrition situation, the status of cost and non-affordability of nutritious diets, promote the implementation of certain programs or activities, emphasize targeting objectives for the most nutritionally vulnerable individuals, and for integrating nutrition into various programming areas. Examples of utilization of FNG results for CSPs include:

- In 2017, **Cambodia** CO FNG findings were used as a key reference for integrating and mainstreaming nutrition activities across WFP's operations, and in particular school feeding.
- In 2021, **Kyrgyzstan** CO utilized updated metrics on cost and non-affordability of nutrient-adequate diets based on data from the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to capture the economic barriers due to shocks for their CSP.
- In 2022, **Laos** CO used FNG results from 2016 to define targeted strategies to improve the nutrient intake of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and include them as a key target group in their programmes. The results also informed further engagement in food fortification, supporting the government to develop a road map for rice and food fortification and its use as a commodity in the school meal program.

FNGs can also respond directly to one strategic objective in a CSP. For example, one of the strategic objectives in **Nepal's** CSP (2019-2023) was "Government efforts towards achieving zero hunger by 2030 are supported by inclusive and coherent policy frameworks across all spheres of government by 2023." Key activities under this outcome included WFP providing technical support to orient the second Multisector Nutrition Plan (MSNP II). FNG was initiated to convene national stakeholders to develop recommendations for this Plan which then included both cost and non-affordability results and a comprehensive analysis of the nutrition situation in Nepal generated by the FNG analysis.



## Section 2: Maximizing Use of FNG Products

### Available Materials

Each FNG analysis creates resources that are available for use by the CO, RBB, and external holders. RBB strongly encourages the use of these materials for advocacy, publications, funding proposals, further engagement, and other.

Deliverables created during the FNG process have been used for positioning of WFP Nutrition in certain countries and for bringing attention to relevant nutrition topics. In the Philippines, for example, FNG results have been used in a series of national webinars on healthy diets.

Table 4 provides an overview of which materials are available from each FNG. Summary reports and briefs are available online at <https://www.wfp.org/publications/fillthenutrientgap>. Full reports and slide decks are shared with respective COs and are also available by request from RBB Nutrition and SAN colleagues. Please note annotated slide decks are often used in the place of a full report.

*Table 4: Available materials from FNGs in Asia Pacific Region*

	Slide Decks		Published Materials				Case studies included in FNG Thematic briefs
	Final Slide Deck	Annotated Slide Deck	Full Report	Summary Report	Executive Brief	Other	
<b>Afghanistan</b>	x		x		x	Topic briefs: COVID-19, Affordability, Income Shocks, Fresh Food Vouchers	
<b>Bangladesh (National)</b>	x		x	x		Slide deck on policy dialogues	
<b>Bangladesh (CXB)</b>	x	x		x			<a href="#">Minimum Expenditure Basket</a>
<b>Cambodia</b>	x		x	x			
<b>Indonesia - 2017</b>	x		x				<a href="#">Social protection for human capital development</a>
<b>Indonesia - 2021</b>	x		(Under review)	x	x		
<b>Lao PDR</b>	x		x	x			
<b>Myanmar</b>	x		x	x			
<b>Nepal</b>	x		x	x	x	Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Summary for Province 1 and 2	
<b>Pakistan</b>	x		x	x	x		<a href="#">Cash-based transfers, Social protection for human capital development</a>
<b>Philippines</b>	x		x	x			<a href="#">Fortification, School meals</a>
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	x		x	x			
<b>Timor Leste</b>	x		x				
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	x	x					
<b>Tajikistan</b>	x			x			

## Using the results - drawing advocacy messages from FNG results

The FNG materials listed above contain the baseline cost and non-affordability, secondary data, and modelling results. One common challenge for COs has been to communicate FNG results appropriately to a non-technical audience. Table 5 provides examples how COs have reframed FNG results into advocacy messages

*Table 5: Examples of translating FNG results into advocacy message*

	FNG Results	Advocacy message
<b>Nepal:</b> Staple food fortification	If a household were to consume wheat flour fortified at Nepali standards rather than unfortified wheat flour, the daily cost of the nutritious diet would reduce by 8%. If the wheat flour were fortified to WHO standards, the cost of the nutritious diet reduced by a further 8%, because the WHO standard for fortified wheat flour include additional essential micronutrients such as vitamin A, folic acid, vitamin B12 and zinc (Figure 35).	Wheat flour fortification standards should be aligned to WHO standards to improve inexpensive access to vitamin A, folic acid, vitamin B12, and zinc.
<b>Timor Leste:</b> School Based Programs	A school meal costing USD 0.50 has the potential to reduce the cost of the diet for a school-aged child by 50% more than a meal costing USD 0.25.	Increasing school meal budgets can have a profound impact on reducing households' economic burden of covering children's nutritional needs.
<b>Indonesia:</b> Unhealthy Food Consumption	The cost of a nutritious diet for a child under 2 in Jakarta doubles from IDR 3,659 to IDR 6,491 if the child consumed one sugar-sweetened beverage in a day.	Strict regulation around the marketing of unhealthy foods to young children is required to discourage consumption.
<b>Myanmar:</b> Nutrition-specific interventions	For adolescent girls, among vitamin B1 supplementation, iron and folic acid (IFA), multi-micronutrient tablet (MMT) and a portion of milk, MMT had the largest estimated reduction in cost of the diet from MMK 1,471 to MMK 854, a reduction of 42%.	Given limited resources, MMT should be prioritized as a nutrition-specific intervention for adolescent girls, as it has the most potential to fill nutrient gaps.
<b>Afghanistan:</b> Nutrition-sensitive social protection	If 100% of a voucher valued at AFN 6850 goes towards wheat flour, rice, pulses, salt, oil, sugar, a 7-person Afghani household will only cover 24% of the cost of the nutritious diet. If 50% of the voucher went towards 50% fortified wheat flour, rice, pulses, salt, oil, sugar and 50% of value for fresh foods, the households could cover 94% of the cost of the nutritious diet.	Cash based transfers can help reduce the economic burden in areas with sufficient market access. Replacing part of the transfer with fresh food vouchers can ensure households purchase nutritious foods and creates demand for suppliers.

## Section 3: Moving Forward – Planning for future analyses and other resources

### Planning for FNG Analyses and Cost and Non-Affordability Updates

The majority of countries in Asia-Pacific have conducted an FNG analyses and may wonder “what’s next”? FNG results do not necessarily have an “expiration” date and should be part of continuum of a CO’s activities; however, because the FNG provides analysis for a moment in time, updates are recommended every three to five years. FNGs are intended to provide evidence to inform policies, strategies, and programs, therefore these objectives should drive the planning and timing of an FNG. In case of an event which may significantly alter the economic barriers to nutritious diets in a country, like food price inflation, natural hazards, external shocks like COVID-19, internal displacements or refugee population movements among others, updates are advisable.

RBB countries that wish to update their results need to consider whether it is necessary to carry out a full FNG analyses or a less time-intensive modality. To aid in this decision, Tables 1 in the [annex](#) describes what would be required for an FNG analysis and a cost of the diet update. For a detailed timeline example of a FNG analysis, please refer to the annex Table 2. For a checklist in preparation to initiating an FNG, please see annex Table 3.

As both full FNGs and updates require food price and expenditure data, RBB and SAN are available to support initiatives to food price data collection (i.e. advising on food lists) and support liaising with national governments on data access. In coordination with RBB, SAN team is also available to provide trainings on methodology under both regular FNGs and updates to strengthen capacity on analytics for diet costs and affordability.

### **Enabling and disabling factors for an FNG or CotD Update**

The FNG evaluation conducted in 2019-2020 found a number of enabling factors which increase and decrease the efficacy of an FNG analysis. These factors are summarized in Table 4 and Table 5 in the [annex](#).

### **Ensuring Sustainability of FNG Utilization**

Financial and time limitations make it impossible to re-do FNG analysis annually or every couple of years, and stakeholders can become fatigued and disinterested if they are asked regularly to re-contribute to a large, lengthy analysis. One reoccurring challenge of FNG/CotD analyses is ensuring sustainable capacities to update the analysis, maintain an understanding of the results with stakeholders, and continue to utilize the findings in relevant policies, programs, publications and platforms. Building analytical capacities of national CO staff and governments will be critical to ensure sustainability. Recognising this, RBB has begun to invest in capacity building.

### ***Building national capacity-strengthening for FNG / CotD analyses***

RBB, in collaboration with the SAN, is still exploring models on how best to transfer FNG and CotD skills to national partners and players (i.e government, academia), but some examples already do exist. National capacity strengthening is possible where food price and expenditure data are regularly collected. National statistics bureau typically collect this information for monitoring, and its use can be extended for calculating cost and non-affordability. To date, SAN has supported government partners primarily in monitoring:

- In **Sri Lanka**, a one-week training for government counterparts from the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute was conducted on how to monitor cost and non-affordability of diets in line with the FNG methodology.
- In **Ethiopia**, colleagues from Ethiopian Public Health Institute were trained on how to use the Cost of the Diet software and regularly monitor cost and non-affordability of diets.

Country offices who are interested in training for their national partners can reach out to the RBB Nutrition team to discuss training opportunities and relevance.

### ***Building internal WFP country office and RB Capacity for nutrition analytics***

To date, most efforts for capacity-strengthening related to FNG and nutrition analytics has been targeted towards the RB level, but there is growing interest of COs in benefitting from training directly. Various strategies have been adopted for capacity strengthening:

- RBN, RBC, RBB, and the Ethiopia country office are trained on the FNG methodology, including calculating cost and affordability of diets (as well as linking those results to other relevant tools like OPTIMUS, PLUS, MEB, and MFI) as well as interpretation of results for messaging. Trainings can be done by request or when a need is identified.
- RBs have focal points for analysis and advocacy to better support capacity strengthening for each region.

## **Data Availability**

Before embarking on capacity building for government or local colleagues, it is critical to ensure dependable availability of data. Even if staff are trained, an essential component to doing a CotD assessment or FNG analysis is data on food prices and expenditure. Important considerations regarding data include:

- Diet costs and non-affordability monitoring is only possible if colleagues have access to regularly collected food price data which captures the costs of foods from diverse food groups.
- If colleagues want to carry out a sub-national analysis, this data must be available sub-nationally.
- Often food price data already exists (but can sometimes be difficult to access), as governments will collect data on food price to monitor inflation or conduct regular household income and expenditure surveys (from which food prices can be calculated).
- In cases where food expenditure surveys are not collected by the government, RAM in regional bureaus has collaborated with SAN to produce a data collection module for this data. Data on expenditure may also be regularly monitored, but because expenditure surveys are time-intensive to conduct, maybe be dated and require inflation adjustments.

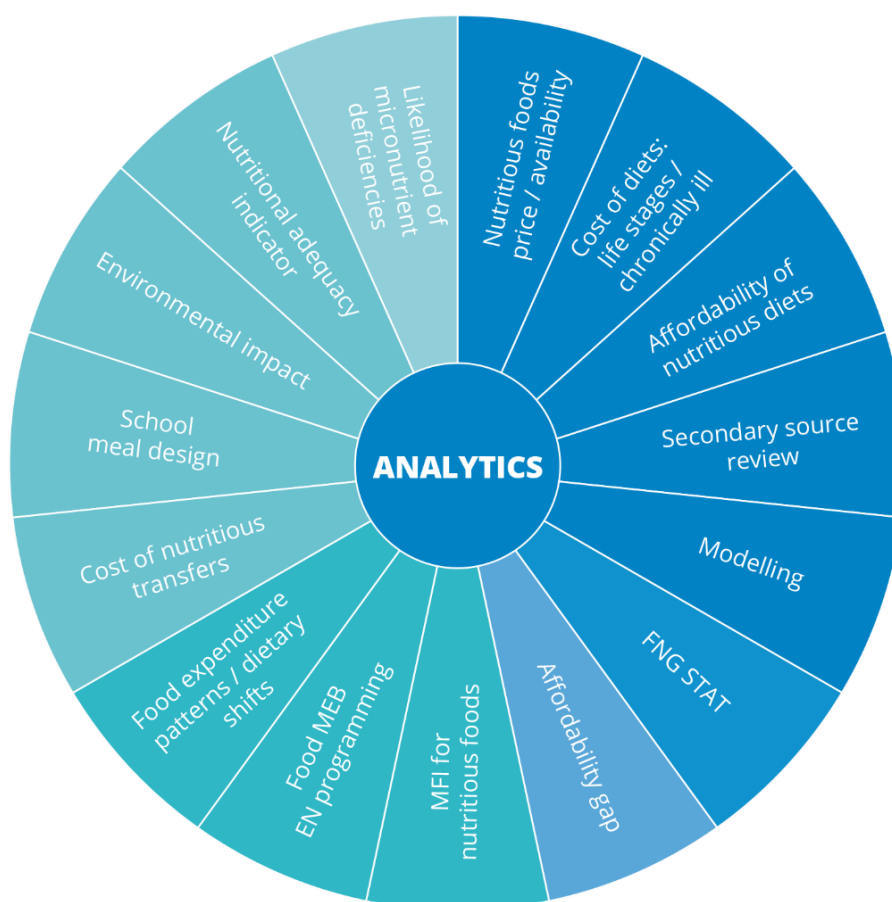
For more support in identifying if available data is sufficient to do cost and non-affordability monitoring, please contact RBB.

### **Availability of other analysis: the analytical toolbox**

RBB and SAN are available to support analysis in reaction to changing needs. Figure 2 shows the spectrum of tools available in the SAN toolbox. Briefly, the tools are:

- In the darkest blue are tools which are included directly in each the FNG analysis, including a deep dive on the prices and availability of nutritious foods, analysis of nutrient needs across the lifecycle, diet affordability, secondary data review, and modelling of interventions.
- FNGSTAT, in slightly lighter blue, is a database which standardizes all data from FNGs, and is therefore a direct product of FNGs. FNGSTAT is available through the [annex](#).
- The Affordability Gap is a new tool which estimates the depth of non-affordability within a population and can be done during an FNG.
- In dark turquoise are analytics which link to cost and affordability analyses, including the Market Functionality Index (MFI), the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), and analyses around food expenditure behaviours. SAN does not run these analytics but can link cost and affordability analyses to them.
- In lighter turquoise are analytics which link to specific program areas: cost of nutritious transfer to CBT, school meal design to school-based programs, environmental impact analysis for climate change and nutritional adequacy indicator analysis to food transfers.
- In the lightest turquoise, SAN will begin working on an indicator for the likelihood of micronutrient deficiencies.

Figure 2: Wheel of analytics supported by Systems Analysis for Nutrition



To request support in this analysis, please contact Anusara Singhkumarwong (RBB Regional Nutritionist; [anusara.singhkumarwong@wfp.org](mailto:anusara.singhkumarwong@wfp.org)) and Jo Jacobsen (Deputy Chief of SAN; [jo.jacobsen@wfp.org](mailto:jo.jacobsen@wfp.org)).

Financing for ad-hoc, small analytical pieces may not be necessary. Please get in touch directly to discuss matters of financing.

### The future of cost and affordability metrics

Emerging themes are gaining attention in the RBB region, like urban livelihoods, triple burden, rice fortification, and climate. As climate in particular is becoming an issue which has already and will likely continue disrupt millions of livelihoods, RBB and SAN are increasingly focusing on the relationship between diets and climate. In 2022, SAN will launch the ENHANCE (**E**nvironment, **N**utrition and **H**ealth **A**nalYTics for **N**ational, **C**onsumer and **E**mergency diets) tool as a replacement for the Cost of the Diet software currently in use. This tool will calculate not only cost and affordability of diets, but also their impact on the environments through calculations on GHG emissions and water footprint. It will be able to model diets common in Asia, including vegetarian, dairy-free, and others. Piloting of the ENHANCE software will begin in Q3 2022.

### Financing

FNG analyses and CotD updates require financing (see Table 6), and methods to secure finances have varied widely across countries. Countries have the option of using existing funds or fundraising from partners and donors. Information for budget planning are provided in Table 1 of the [annex](#). Table 8 provides a summary of donors who have funded FNGs in the Asia-Pacific region.



*Table 10: RBB FNG analyses and their respective funding partners*

Country	Funding Partners
Afghanistan	BMZ, KFW, USAID
Bangladesh	SRAC, Save the Children and World fish
Cambodia	Partly BMZ, CO funded
Indonesia (2017)	BAPPENAS
Indonesia (2020/2021)	UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, USAID
Kyrgyzstan	NUT & RBC
Laos	Partly BMZ and CO funded
Nepal	Government of Japan, KOICA, USAID
Pakistan	BMZ and CO funded
Philippines	CO funded
Sri Lanka	Largely BMZ
Tajikistan	IRM – RB Cairo
Timor Leste	CO with USAID/WHO, in kind contributions from FAO/UNICEF

Country offices have used creative methods in the past to cover costs of FNGs. For example, in Nepal, KOICA paid the allowance of a UN Volunteer who was responsible for carrying out the CotD analysis; in Timor Leste, WHO paid for the conferences and workshops of the FNG but did not provide funding for the TA.

Outside of Asia, countries have also utilized on-going projects to guarantee funding. For example, in Burkina Faso, the analysis was funded by IFAD, who had an on-going nutrition-sensitive agriculture program across the country. FNG analysed the effectiveness of the program on reducing the cost of the nutritious diet, which in turn benefitted IFAD.

Increasingly, SAN is receiving attention from international financial institutions. A FNG was recently started in Bhutan with financial support from the World Bank. Further exploration of relationships with IFIs is needed to understand if this could be a potential donor.

## Acronyms

AFN	Afghan Afghani
AP	Asia Pacific region
AS4FN	Analytics and Science for Food and Nutrition
BISP	Benazir Income Support Programme
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)
CO	Country Office
CotD	Cost of the Diet
CSP	Country Strategic Plans
ENHANCE	Environment, Nutrition and Health Analytics for National, Consumer and Emergency diets)
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GFD	General Food Distribution
HoP	Head of Program
IDR	Indonesia Rupiah
IFI	International Financial institutions
KFW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
MMK	Myanmar Kyat
MMT	Multiple micronutrient tablets
NUT	Nutrition Division
RAM	Research, Assessment and Monitoring division
RBB	Regional Bureau Bangkok
RBC	Regional Bureau Cairo
RBx	Regional bureaus
SAN	Systems Analysis for Nutrition
SNF	Specialized Nutritious Foods
TA	Technical assistance
TWG	Technical Working Group
USD	United States Dollar
WHO	World Health Organization

For more information on Systems Analysis for Nutrition or the Fill the Nutrient Gap Analysis, please visit <https://www.wfp.org/publications/fillthenutrientgap>.

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