

Tackling the South Asia Enigma

A multi-sector approach to improve Food and Nutrition Security



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The South Asian Enigma:

economic growth did not translate into better nutrition

Sustained economic growth

Highest levels of Malnutrition

Gender inequality

Social exclusion

Inefficient FNS programs

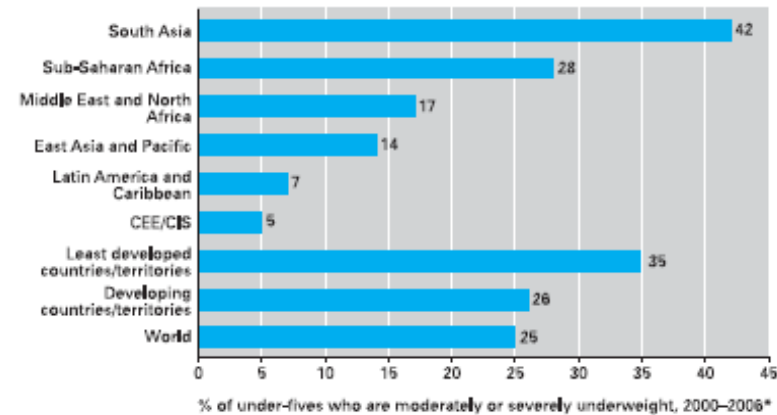
Lack of knowledge & Poor Hygiene

Better macroeconomic environment

Poverty reduction

Increased spending on Human development

South Asia has the highest level of undernutrition among the regions



‘The curse that we must remove’

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

Undernutrition impairs human and economic development



Challenges for improved FNS in South Asia

- « Hidden » Hunger
- Low knowledge
- Malnutrition is associated as a problem of the poor
- Food and nutrition are often dissociated
- Place of women and children in society
- Political economy
- Food price volatility
- Climate change
- Fragile States



South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFANSI)

- **GOAL: Transformational**
 - Foster cross-cutting interventions that will lead to measureable improvements in food and nutrition security
- **OBJECTIVE**
 - Increase the commitment of governments and development partners to more effective and integrated food and nutrition-related policies and investments (programs)



SAFANSI's Approach

■ Multi-Sectoral

- Promote an integrated, cross-sectoral (inter-ministerial) approach to cover critical issues for ensuring FNS

■ Actionable

- Support and enable (high level) national and/or regional platforms which can operationalize these multi-sectoral actions

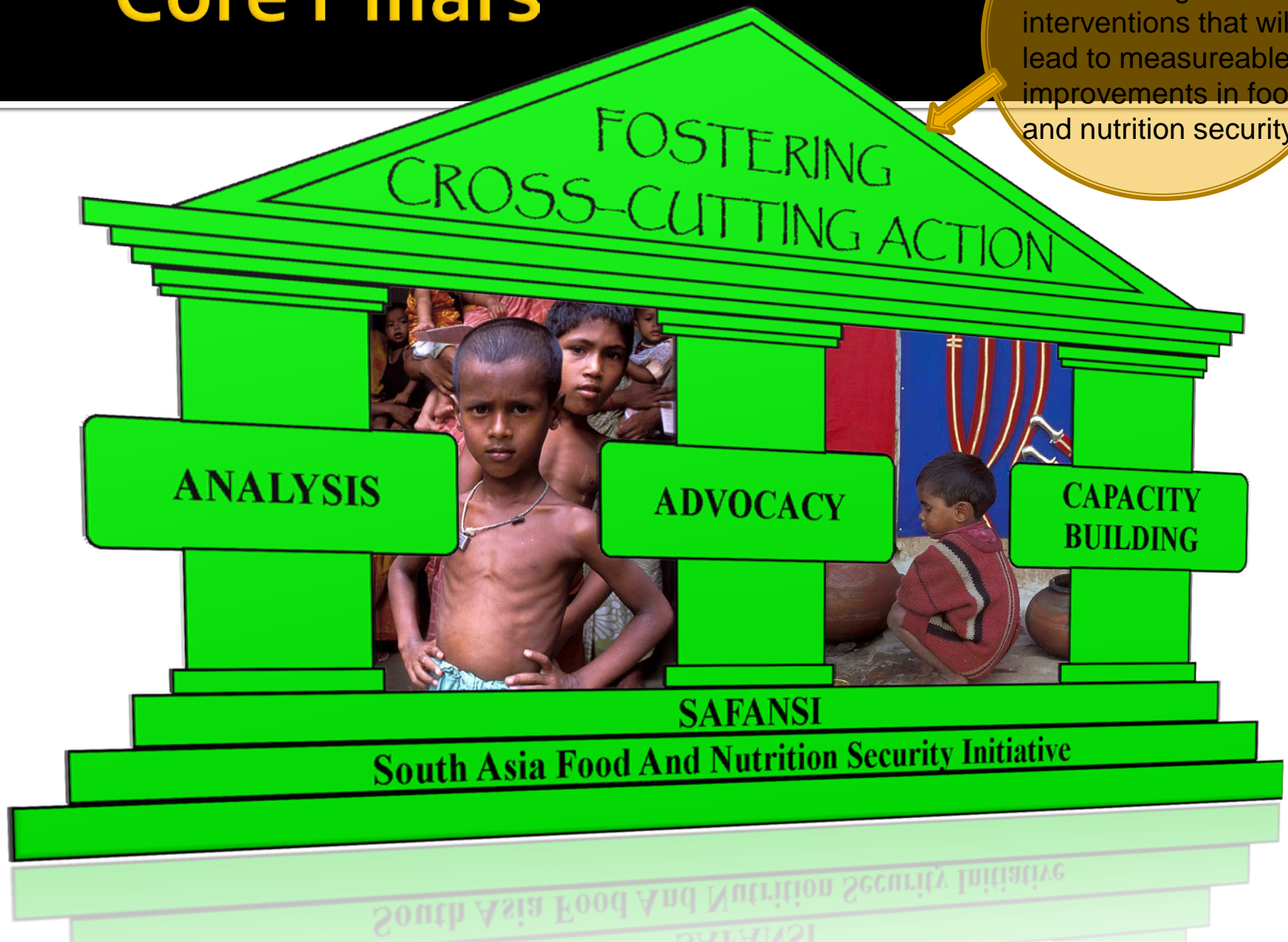
■ Strategic Impact

- Transformational, and therefore long-term and inclusive



Core Pillars

Our Goal is to foster cross-cutting interventions that will lead to measureable improvements in food and nutrition security



SAFANSI : Addressing the Social Dimensions of Food and Nutrition Security

1. **Food Availability and Access to Food**

- Improved & more resilient farming systems in areas vulnerable to climate change
- Increasing food production in high potential areas and addressing linked environmental issues
- Removing barriers to intra-regional trade in food
- More effective social safety net programmes

2. **Nutrition security/Direct interventions**

- Ensuring focus on the first 1,000 days of life
- Policy change for more nutrition action across sectors
- Reducing impact of conflicts, economic and environmental shocks on the nutritionally vulnerable

3. **Cross-cutting themes**

- Gender inequality and under-nutrition
- Improving efficiency of FNS programs
- Political Economy Analysis of FNS in the region

SAFANSI at Work



SCOPE

- **Multi-sectoral:**
 - Agriculture and Rural Development
 - Social Protection
 - Social Development
 - Water and Sanitation
 - Economic Policy
 - Health, Nutrition, Population
- **Regional**
 - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

RESULTS

ANALYSIS

- Multi-sectoral Simulation Tool
- Gender and Nutrition Mapping: Focus on Adolescent Girls
- Political Economy Analysis (PEA) of the FNS Agenda

ADVOCACY

- Cross-Cutting “Multisectoral Plan of Action” (e.g., Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan)
- Conference “Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health”

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Supporting Ground-level Innovation and Dissemination (Development Market Place on Nutrition)
- Technical Assistance for Scaling Up Nutrition Initiative (Nepal, etc.)

How the World Bank engages in FNS in South Asia

- High Commitment to its *Regional Assistance Strategy on Nutrition*
- A long-established and well-trusted client relationship with our country counterparts
- Multi-Sectoral Engagement
- Capacity to leverage resources
- Convening Power
- A « solution » & « knowledge » Bank for poverty reduction



SAFANSI in the future:

Intensifying the Social Dimensions of FNS

- ***Domestic Stewardship Platforms:*** create/ strengthen networks of “champions” or “practice” by bringing together opinion/policy makers, technocrats, civil society etc
- ***Social Observatory:*** for rural Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) in National Rural Livelihoods Mission of India
- **Long-term impact on adult outcomes** of food and nutrition insecurity
- **More cross-sector analysis of FNS issues in non-traditional contexts** (i.e. Shocks and conflicts, women empowerment, water & sanitation, etc.)
- **Growing Partnerships** with Key Stakeholders
 - EU, IFPRI, Gates, USAID, SUN, REACH ,etc.



Thank you!



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