



POSHAN is a four-year initiative to build evidence on effective means of fostering maternal-child nutrition and to support the use of evidence in decision making. It is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and led by IFPRI in India.

POSHAN aims to enhance the use of evidence by

- Crystallizing the evidence base for taking action on maternal-child nutrition in India;
- Bringing diverse stakeholders together and actively facilitating dialogue, evidence building, learning, and consensus building between and at the national and state levels; and
- Building on existing initiatives, action networks, consortia, and coalitions.



POSHAN's Strategy

In its first year, POSHAN conducted landscape analyses of policies, programs, actors, and networks to identify major evidence gaps about under nutrition, as well as to understand how the available evidence is currently being used to guide policies and practices for addressing under nutrition in India*.

Key findings that emerged from the landscape analyses include:

- There is a lack of operational evidence to support policy and program actions and improve program delivery and uptake.
- There has been insufficient program and policy implementation based on existing evidence.
- There is considerable demand for evidence on operational approaches to scaling up and delivering high-quality services.
- There are a number of knowledge-sharing mechanisms that play a role in promoting knowledge mobilization for maternal-child health and nutrition goals and that could be strengthened and linked for greater impact.

POSHAN's strategy—based on these findings—is to promote the use of evidence in nutrition policy making and practice, by working with partners to generate and mobilize knowledge.

Knowledge generation will focus on four priority themes identified by the landscape analyses:

- **Supporting intersectoral convergence between ICDS and health services.** Convergence between nutrition and health has long been recognized as necessary to reducing child under nutrition in India. The stakeholders interviewed expressed a need to address the gaps in understanding how best to foster intersectoral convergence.
- **Assessing multisectoral strategies for nutrition.** The need for a comprehensive approach to solving undernutrition that involves scaling up direct health and nutrition services, while also leveraging other sectors (such as agriculture and education) through multisectoral actions (such as women's empowerment) is slowly gaining recognition.
- **Improving implementation of direct nutrition interventions at scale.** Although both the health sector and ICDS in India have expanded their nutrition interventions considerably, strategies for generating systematic learning from these experiences, and corresponding investments in such learning, need to be strengthened.
- **Generating and using data on nutritional status.** India has not yet established mechanisms to track and report reliable nutrition data frequently. While data collection efforts occurred in 2011, they were not nationally representative. These efforts offer opportunities for further knowledge generation.

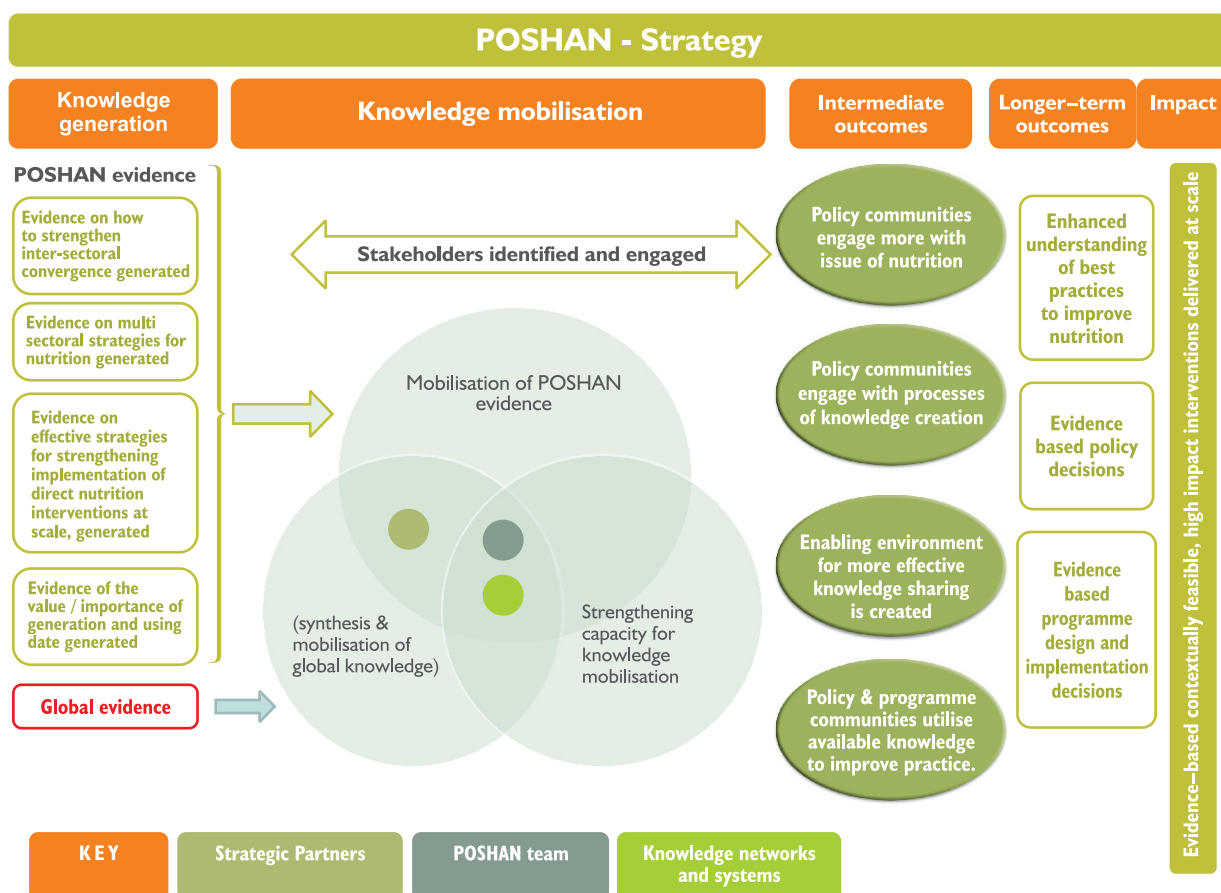
* Diverse methods used include document review and desk research, Net-Map interviews (a visual mapping technique combining social network analysis and power mapping), and stakeholder interviews.



Knowledge mobilization will focus on POSHAN-generated evidence and evidence generated by other stakeholders.

Our aims are to:

- Mobilize evidence in ways that best facilitate stakeholders' engagement with it, including research briefs, policy notes, bi-monthly research digests, meetings, events, social media, e-consultations;
- Strengthen and link up existing knowledge networks and systems to promote maternal-child health and nutrition goals; and
- Facilitate media engagement, including media fellowships, media briefings, and roundtables.



POSHAN's Stakeholders

As part of its knowledge generation and mobilization work, **POSHAN** will collaborate with key actors and stakeholders in the national and state governments, non-governmental organizations and networks, and research and academic institutions that share our goal of improving nutrition outcomes.

POSHAN will also work directly at the state level, focusing on leveraging partnerships and building on existing initiatives in two or more of the following states: Madhya Pradesh (MP), Uttar Pradesh (UP), Andhra Pradesh (AP), Odisha, and Bihar.

Examples of some of our partners, and highlights of their roles, include:

Coalition for Sustainable Nutrition Security in India will bring key national-level nutrition stakeholders together to engage with evidence from the upcoming Lancet Nutrition Series and will disseminate findings from a diverse body of researchers through a series of policy seminars.

- OneWorld South Asia will support media engagement through media fellowships in nutrition reporting and a micro site on nutrition.
- Save the Children will work with government and key development partners in the state of Uttar Pradesh to support its knowledge mobilization.
- Right to Food Network will convene a Nutrition Resource Group and develop and disseminate training materials on nutrition to civil society organizations.

About the Core POSHAN Partners

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) provides evidence-based policy solutions to sustainably end hunger and malnutrition and reduce poverty. The Institute conducts research, communicates results, optimizes partnerships, and builds capacity to ensure sustainable food production, promote healthy food systems, improve markets and trade, transform agriculture, build resilience, and strengthen institutions and governance. Gender is considered in all of the Institute's work. IFPRI collaborates with partners around the world, including development implementers, public institutions, the private sector, and farmers' organizations, to ensure that local, national, regional, and global food policies are based on evidence. IFPRI is a member of the CGIAR Consortium.

Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) is a public-private partnership that aims to redress the limited institutional capacity in India for strengthening training, research and policy development and analysis, program development and evaluation, health systems organization, models of healthcare financing, and operationalized scientific research in the area of public health.

The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) is a leading global organization for research, education, and communication on international development. IDS hosts six dynamic research teams, several popular postgraduate courses, and a family of world-class knowledge services. These three spheres are integrated in a unique combination as a development knowledge hub. IDS is connected into, and is a convenor of, networks throughout the world.

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If you would like more information about **POSHAN**, or to explore possibilities for partnership, please contact Mamata Pradhan (m.pradhan@cgiar.org) for more information.