



**International Conference on  
Critical Public Health Consequences of the  
Double Burden of Malnutrition and the  
Changing Food Environment in South and  
South East Asia**



INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, DELHI  
MARCH 28-30, 2018

The South East Asia region has the highest rate of mortality from NCDs among all WHO regions (62% of all mortality, affecting 8.5 million people) and the second highest (after the African region) for communicable diseases.

Urgent measures are necessary to address the public health challenges posed by the double burden of malnutrition, to accelerate eradication of undernutrition and prevent a full blown epidemic of obesity and attendant NCDs.

## Three Day International Conference

### Critical Public Health Consequences of the Double Burden of Malnutrition and the Changing Food Environment in South and South East Asia

India International Centre, New Delhi

28-30 March, 2018

#### Background to the Conference

Countries in South and South East Asia have some of the highest levels of undernutrition. Simultaneously, the region is seeing a rapid transition to a new situation where it faces a 'double burden of malnutrition' whereby gains related to reduction in under-nutrition, are being undermined by an increase in overweight and obesity. Concomitant with both is a high degree of morbidity and mortality from communicable diseases such as TB, malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea associated with under-nutrition; and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes, hypertension, cardiac disease and strokes, associated with obesity.

There are common roots underlying both under and 'overnutrition' in the globalized world. These include the impact on food systems of current agricultural practices, and practices related to food production, manufacture, distribution, trade and commerce; as well as to the power differentials between those who are most affected and those who benefit most from the current food system. The global trade regimes of WTO and the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) have a profound impact on agricultural practices, as well as on food and nutrition security and food sovereignty. The unregulated penetration of food and beverage companies and the aggressive marketing of processed and ultra processed foods severely compound the problem of malnutrition.

Mega agribusiness conglomerates and

Complicating both undernutrition and 'overnutrition' is the widespread incidence of micronutrient deficiencies, or the 'third' burden of malnutrition faced by a large section of the population.

transnational food and beverage corporations are also implicated in environmental degradation and climate change. There is growing evidence linking undernutrition in childhood with increased risk of obesity and non-communicable diseases in later life. The aggressive marketing of breastmilk substitutes has also led to a dramatic reduction in infants who are being exclusively breastfed in the region.

### Conference Themes

Discussions at the conference will be organized in four sections:

- 1. Opening Plenary:** Situation analysis, including technical presentations on links between malnutrition and the burden of disease.
- 2. Section on Undernutrition:** Discussions will be organized in plenary sessions and workshops that will run in parallel.
- 3. Section on Overweight/Obesity:** Discussions will be organized in plenary sessions and workshops that will run in parallel include:

#### *Themes/issues which will be covered in Sections 2 and 3*

- Laws and policies (including social protection) related to nutrition,
  - Food systems, land reform and access to land,
  - Agricultural policies, food production and processing and their impact,
  - The role and regulation of agribusiness, food and beverages corporations and corporations which promote breastmilk substitutes and infant formula.
  - Programmes, human resources, pharmaceutical issues and research in relation to nutrition.
  - Current challenges and positive actions to address them.
  - Technical (biomedical) issues related to nutrition and disease consequences.
  - Strategizing around advocacy and social mobilization on issues related to malnutrition.
- 4. Synthesis Plenary:** This will distill and elaborate on the common themes emerging from and related to the structural and systemic causes of both undernutrition and overweight/obesity.

#### Specific objectives of the conference:

- To harness evidence regarding the prevalence of both under nutrition and 'over-nutrition', as well as the associations between nutrition and disease, policy and programme responses.
- To catalyse civil society action to support community-based efforts to reshape the food and nutrition policy landscape.
- To bring together global and regional policy makers, academics, researchers, nutrition advocates and activists.
- To support development and implementation of policies and programmes that promote better public health, nutrition and the control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Participants will have the facility to make oral and poster presentations. These will be chosen from submitted abstracts/posters. Abstracts and poster presentations on the themes of conference can be sent by academicians, researchers, nutrition experts, and activists engaged in Nutrition and Public Health.

For all abstract submissions and queries, write to  
nutriconference18@gmail.com

## Conference Organizers



**Public Health Resource Network (PHRN)** is a network, based in India, of individuals and organizations with the perspective of strengthening technical and management capacities to take action towards the goal of 'Health for All'.



**People's Health Movement (PHM)** ([www.phmovement.org](http://www.phmovement.org)) : PHM is a global network bringing together grassroots health activists, civil society organizations and academic institutions from around the world, particularly from low and middle income countries (L&MIC). With a presence in around 70 countries.



**Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA)** ([www.phmindia.org](http://www.phmindia.org)) is the Indian regional circle of the global People's Health Movement (PHM) and is the major national platform that co-ordinates activities and actions on health and healthcare across the country.



**WPHNA** is a professional membership organisation with members from more than 65 countries. It advocates at local, national, and international levels to promote the improvement of public health nutrition.

**Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation** **Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation** is a grant making organization supporting pan India work in the area of health, education, livelihoods, governance and youth and urbanization. The Foundation enables the civil society initiatives and social entrepreneurs to make a positive, lasting and sustainable impact in the society.



The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. IFPRI's vision is a world free of hunger and malnutrition. Its mission is to provide research-based policy solutions that sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition.