

World Bank's Multi-Sector Nutrition Engagement in Afghanistan



High Levels of Malnutrition in Children

**Very high rates of stunting:
55%**

**One third of children (31%)
underweight**

**Anemia: 50% in children 6-
24 months**

**High iodine deficiency: 72%
(school age)**



High Levels of Malnutrition in Women

**High levels of chronic
energy deficiency:
21% low BMI**

**Iron deficiency: 48%
non-pregnant**

Iodine deficiency: 75%



Consequences of Malnutrition

**Higher mortality and lifetime illness
(even adult diabetes!)**



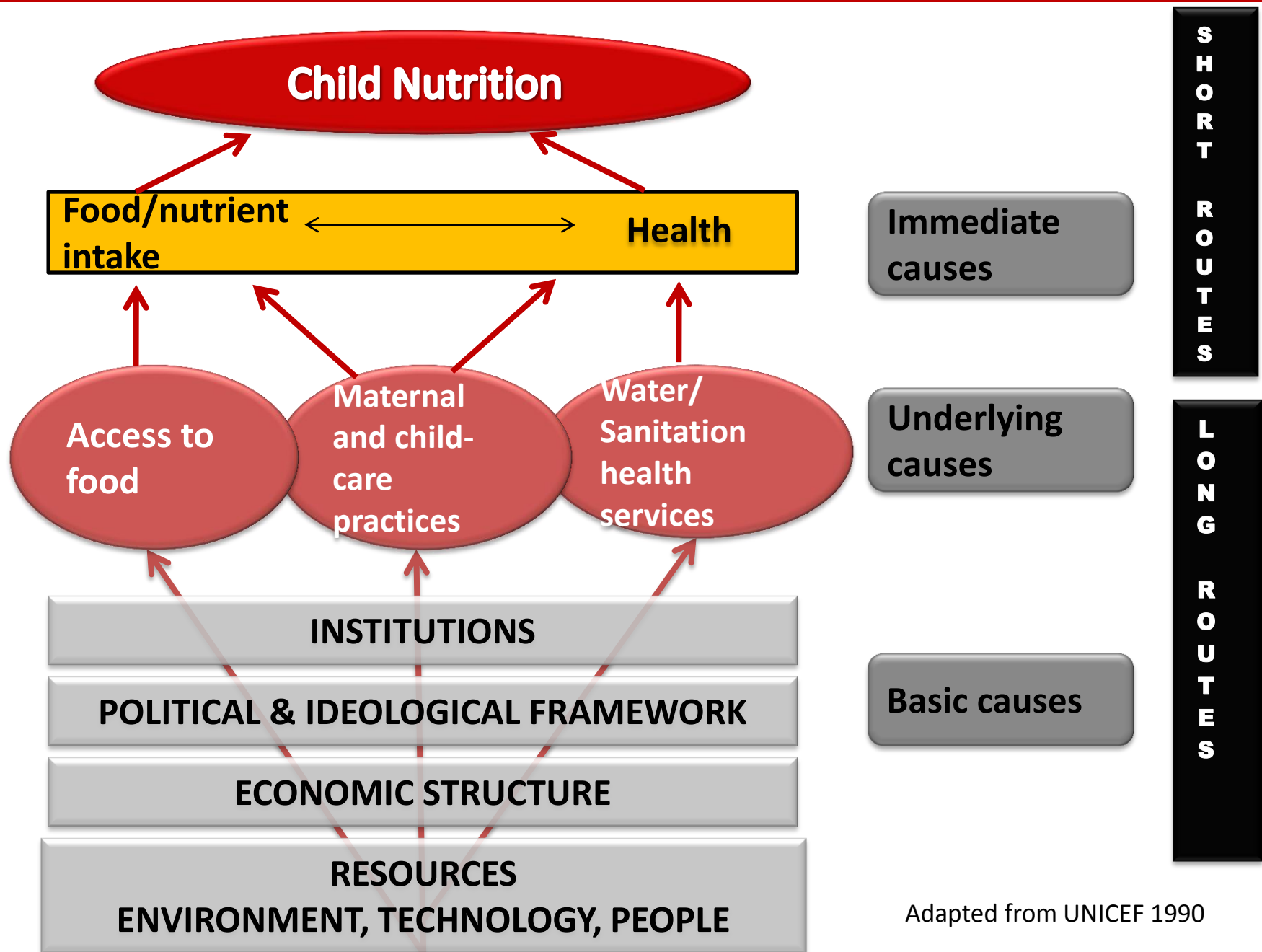
**Lower IQ, cognitive development &
school achievement**



**Reduced adult productivity
and lower earnings**



Determinants of Child Nutrition



Adapted from UNICEF 1990

Determinants of Malnutrition in Afghanistan

- **FOOD INSECURITY**
 - 1/3 of HH have inadequate calorie intake; 1/3 of HH with poor dietary diversity; seasonal, economic access is a challenge
- **POOR CARE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN**
 - Low access to care during pregnancy, low status of women (22% of young women literate, 48% married by the age of 18); sub-optimal IYCF practices (18% children 6-24 mo adequately fed, 54% exclusive breastfeeding rates)
- **LIMITED ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**
 - 29% of population has improved sanitation, 46% practice safe disposal of child; access and quality of health services still a challenge; high rates of diarrhoea

Proposed World Bank's Multi-Sector Nutrition Engagement in Afghanistan

- **The overall objective of the World Bank's nutrition engagement in Afghanistan over the next 5 years, is: *To enable the Government of Afghanistan to implement a set of specific programmatic actions by key sectors to address maternal and child chronic malnutrition in a coordinated manner***
- **This approach will build on existing and future World Bank operations in key sectors as well as the extensive analytical work that has been undertaken (by the Bank and others) in the last four years**
- **Sectors which have also been prioritized in the National Nutrition Framework (NAF) - will be supported for the purpose of incorporating and/or enhancing pertinent nutrition objectives, indicators, activities and/or components**

Health: Supporting the Implementation of Nutrition (and Health)-Specific Interventions through BPHS and EPHS

- Ensuring that mothers are healthy before they become pregnant and throughout pregnancy**
- Promoting appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices**
- Ensuring that children receive adequate health care to prevent growth faltering resulting from illness and early treatment of acute malnutrition**
- Promote appropriate hygiene practices**
- Strengthening MOPH's institutional and human resource capacity to address malnutrition**

Ensuring Access, Availability and Consumption of Balanced Diets: National Horticulture and Livestock Project

- **Key Outcome:** *Increased access to and consumptions of a diverse and nutritious foods at household level (especially by pregnant and lactating women and infants and young children)*
- **Strengthening nutrition education by Ag extension workers (in collaboration with MOPH Community Health Workers)**
- **Promoting Kitchen and Home Gardens – to ensure dietary diversity**
- **Promotion of livestock and dairy promotion**

Improving Quality of WATSAN to Prevent Childhood Illness and Maximize Utilization of Nutrients: Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project

- **Key Outcome:** *Interrupted fecal-oral routes of transmission among infants and young children*
- **Hygiene Promotion** – revision of BCC materials to include links of WASH activities to child health and nutritional outcomes
- **Grants** – to communities for construction of sanitation facilities to be conditional to also include construction of hand-washing stations
- **Water Purification** – at household level

Education – Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project II

- **Key Outcome:** *School health and nutrition education/programs strengthened*
- **Incorporation of nutrition into curriculum development**
- **Development of teaching aids and materials for nutrition teaching**
- **Expansion of teacher training curriculum to include nutrition**
- **Installation of basic facilities in schools – water points, hand-washing stations, toilets**

Engaging the Food Industry to Fortify Staple Foods with Key Micronutrients: Afghanistan New Market Development Project

- **Key Outcome:** *Increased consumption of fortified foods*
- **Technical Assistance – Facilitate substantive dialogue between MOCI, ANSA and development partners on food fortification**
- **Operations – through support to SME with, eg matching grants, engage the food industry and relevant associations and incentivize food fortification initiatives**

Coordination

- **Policy level coordination – Nutrition Action Framework?**
- **Operational/Technical Level Coordination?**