

WORKSHOP SERIES

Nutrition Solutions for Social Protection

At A Glance

	WORKSHOP 1 Reaching People Better	WORKSHOP 2 Maximizing Nutrition Impact	WORKSHOP 3 Transforming Governance & Administrative Culture
DATE	30 June & 1 July 2026	September 2026	November 2026
TIME	07:00 – 11:00 EST	07:00 – 11:00 EST	07:00 – 11:00 EST
LOCATION	Virtual	Virtual	Virtual

Series Overview

The NFI Nutrition Solutions for Social Protection series brings together diverse stakeholders for three high-impact 2-day virtual design workshops, each focused on a critical thematic focus area relevant to improving the nutrition impacts of social protection systems. Each workshop is intended to facilitate authentic, inclusive solution-building through structured co-design activities. The series will produce novel evidence and open-access solution prototypes, becoming part of the public domain and benefiting the global community of interested stakeholders as global public goods.

To explore different components of the identified thematic focus areas, each workshop will engage participants in three parallel 'Solution Spaces,' each representing different needs, challenges, and innovation opportunities relevant to the thematic focus area. Each workshop will produce tangible outputs for each 'Solution Space' explored, in the form of **adaptable, evidence-based workflows** that administrators and their implementing partners can use to guide local adaptation and implementation of co-created solutions in the user's programme context.

Workshop Themes & Solutions Spaces

The central themes of the three workshops in the series include: 1) Reaching People Better, 2) Improving Quality of Service, and 3) Strengthening Governance and Administrative Culture.

Workshop 1: Reach People Better

FOCUS

Discovering solutions that expand coverage, improve recipient identification, promote equitable access, and strengthen adaptive learning systems.

Solution Spaces

- **Improving identification of nutritionally vulnerable recipients.** Even when program eligibility criteria target nutritionally-vulnerable members of the population, *identification* of individuals who meet those criteria remains a practical challenge in many contexts. This Solution Space explores innovations that improve administrators' ability to efficiently, accurately, and equitably identify and prioritize nutritionally vulnerable recipients. Innovations in this space may include, but are not limited to, improvements in how social registries incorporate and leverage nutrition vulnerability data, how various sources of relevant data are triangulated to improve prioritization, etc.

OUTPUT

An adaptable workflow for implementing nutrition vulnerability filters in beneficiary databases/social registries.

- **Making nutrition-sensitive benefits more accessible for all.** Social protection programmes often have shortcomings in their design features or delivery systems that make it difficult for nutritionally vulnerable recipients to access and utilize benefits as intended, thus limiting the potential impact of these programmes on nutrition outcomes. This Solution Space explores innovations that can support administrators to effectively assess, manage, and mitigate the effects of accessibility constraints in the design and delivery of nutrition-sensitive benefits and services. Innovations in this space may include, but are not limited to, determination of appropriate benefit levels/values, strategies to streamline administrative processes and minimize 'red tape,' innovation in delivery modalities/distribution sites, etc.

OUTPUT

An adaptable workflow for assessing and ameliorating accessibility gaps in nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes.

- **Data, adaptive learning, and continuous quality improvement.** Effective utilization of data and adaptive learning systems can help programs improve delivery of nutrition-supportive benefits and services to vulnerable recipients. Programs do not always capture or consider nutrition-sensitive indicators, and have limited ability to adjust delivery to adapt to emerging needs—ultimately limiting their ability to assess nutrition outcomes or implement course-correction measures in response to nutritional need. This Solution Space explores innovations that can support programs to better integrate and utilize data for adaptive learning and continuous quality improvement, such as incorporating nutrition indicators in program management information systems (MIS), navigating recipient feedback loops and grievance redressal, and aligned solutions.

OUTPUT

An adaptable workflow for implementing better nutrition data, adaptive learning, and continuous quality improvement systems in social protection programmes.

Workshop 2: Maximizing Nutrition Impact

FOCUS

Discovering solutions that promote substantial, sustainable nutrition impacts against a backdrop of system-scale challenges and unprecedented global crises.

Solution Spaces

- **Driving positive, sustainable nutrition behaviour change.** Supporting adoption of positive nutrition-supportive behaviours among recipients is an important driver of nutrition impacts in social protection programs. Practically, implementing effective, sustainable social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) in programmes can be operationally complex and resource-intensive. In this Solution Space, we explore innovations that can support administrators to implement more robust, cost-effective, and effective SBCC. Innovations in this space might include innovative ways to generate demand for nutritious foods, approaches to expand programme uptake through SBCC, innovations in delivery of behaviour change nudges, improved models for supporting intra-household decision-making, etc.

OUTPUT

An adaptable workflow for optimizing selection, development, and implementation of context-sensitive approaches to shift nutrition behaviours among social protection programme recipients.

- **Safeguarding nutrition resilience in times of crisis.** In the past several years, intersecting and compounding crises have illustrated the effects of system shocks on nutrition resilience. Against a backdrop of increasingly frequent, increasingly severe, and increasingly unpredictable shocks, it is more important than ever that social protection systems drive resilience for the most vulnerable. In this Solution Space, we explore innovations that can support social protection systems to foster authentic, sustained resilience against climate change, conflict, regime change, and other shocks that impact access to healthy diets. We consider solutions targeting any or a combination of the three resilience capacities: *absorptive* capacity, *adaptive* capacity, and *transformative* capacity. Innovations in this space may include, but are not limited to, approaches to combat inflation and price spikes, maintaining delivery of nutrition services during crises, shock-responsive benefits systems, supporting humanitarian-development transition in prolonged crisis, etc.

OUTPUT

An adaptable workflow for safeguarding nutrition resilience through delivery of nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes.

- **Expanding integrated delivery models for sustained nutrition impact.** Nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes often operate within a complex ecosystem of multi-sectoral programmes and services, which together serve and influence nutritionally vulnerable populations. Rather than sector-specific, siloed programs, integrated delivery models that look across agriculture, health, early childhood development, nutrition, and other fields can support holistic protection across the lifecycle. That said, implementing integrated programs raises substantial challenges for programme administrators. In this Solution Space, we explore innovations that can make implementation of integrated delivery models more practical and sustainable. Solutions in this space could include novel approaches to link social protection with other sectors, innovative frameworks for convergence and cross-pollination, mapping of inter-ministerial roles and responsibilities across a multi-sectoral programme space, etc.

OUTPUT

An adaptable workflow for improving the practical feasibility of implementing integrated, multi-sectoral delivery models for improving nutrition impacts of social protection programmes.

Workshop 3: Transforming Governance & Administrative Culture

FOCUS

Discovering solutions that improve governance models, administrative processes, and institutional culture to support sustained delivery of nutrition-sensitive social protection.

Solution Spaces

- **Improving governance models.** Effective governance is critical for nutrition-sensitive social protection, as it ensures that programmes are coherent, equitable, and impactful. In this Solution Space, we explore innovations that strengthen governance of social protection systems, leading to improved nutrition outcomes. Solutions in this space could include, but are not limited to, adaptive governance mechanisms; novel accountability frameworks across diverse stakeholder groups; clarification of roles and responsibilities in programme administration; and platforms that facilitate data sharing, joint decision-making, planning, etc.

OUTPUT

An adaptable workflow for improving governance models in nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes.

- **Building trust and accountability for and with programme recipients.** Gaps in programme uptake, under-performance, exclusion errors, and other common shortcomings in social protection programme delivery can be rooted in failure of programmes to meaningfully engage targeted communities in programme design, delivery, and oversight. In this Solution Space, we explore innovations that can build trust, enhance transparency, and hold programme administrators accountable for their decisions. Solutions in this space might include community-driven monitoring

tools, novel approaches to grievance redressal and feedback loops, participatory design and targeting opportunities, and advancements in practical tools for social accountability in programme contexts.

OUTPUT

An adaptable workflow for improving recipient engagement, trust, and administrator accountability in nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes.

- **Expanding nutrition budgeting, finance, and returns on investment.** Sustainable gains in nutrition from social protection systems depend on robust, intentional budgeting and access to sufficient financing. Often operating with limited financial resources, programme administrators navigate competing priorities in their budgets, with nutrition sometimes being a lower priority. In this Solution Space, we explore innovations that can help advocates for nutrition-sensitive social protection access diverse financing streams, improve tracking and allocation of nutrition services in programme budgets, and strengthen the economic case for investment in nutrition (i.e., returns on investment). Solutions in this space may include innovative financing models, novel approaches to estimate returns on investment, budget allocation frameworks, decision-support tools, inter-ministerial coordination in budget development, etc.

OUTPUT

An adaptable workflow for expanding budgeting, finance, and returns on investment in nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes.

Anticipated Series Outputs

Across the series, participants, organizers, and sponsors will co-create a portfolio of diverse outputs that will be published in the public domain as open-access global public goods.

These outputs include:

- **Insights Reports.** Each workshop in the series will yield diverse and multi-contextual insights on effective solutions, informed and shaped by experiential knowledge, participants' lived experiences, and an array of published data sources. Following each workshop, these insights will be summarized into a formal report published online on the Nutrition Futures Initiative website.
- **Solutions Gallery.** Each Solution Space will produce one or more prototype solutions, which will be further refined and published on the Nutrition Futures Initiative website for utilization and further elaboration by the global community of interested stakeholders. Entries in the gallery will be living documents, around which ongoing collaboration, consultation, and evidence curation will be facilitated using online forums and community tools. Prior to publication, each Solution in the gallery will be subject to peer-review by third party reviewers following the workshops to ensure quality and consistency. A description of the intended contents and format of these solutions is provided below.
- **Networks of Partners.** Owing to the collaborative, co-creative approach used in the workshops, the series will inevitably bring participants into close contact with diverse, complementary stakeholders and potential partners. Using GAIN's Nutrition Futures

Initiative and its underlying Innovators Team platform as a digital community hub, workshop participants will continue to build relationships, forge new connections, and iteratively improve their prototypes following the workshop.

What will the solutions look like?

Generally, **the 'solutions' generated in the workshop series will take the form of practical, adaptable workflows** that users in different programme contexts can adapt and use to implement a suite of innovative approaches co-designed by workshop participants.

During a Workshop

During each workshop, participants will produce 'low-fidelity prototypes' of innovative solutions in their Solution Spaces. These prototypes will consist of 1) a distillation of evidence-based best practices, 2) a synthesis of innovative approaches that can be adapted and implemented, and 3) an illustrative representation of a 'user journey' depicting the steps a program administrator would take to implement the approaches in a local context.

After a Workshop

Following each workshop, organizers and Nutrition Futures Initiative staff will refine and enhance participants' low-fidelity prototypes, building the final workflow that will be published in the Solutions Gallery as final outputs of the workshop. The comprehensiveness and relevance of each workflow will be validated prior to publication through a rigorous peer review process, involving a committee of subject matter experts.

Indicative Agenda

Each of the three workshops in the series will follow a similar agenda, providing a rigorous, consistent co-design experience to participants across all workshops in the series. The general agenda of each two-day workshop will have the following segments:

DAY 1	DAY 2
<p>PLENARY Opening Session 7:00 – 7:20 AM</p> <p>Workshop hosts welcome participants, introduce the agenda and key objectives of the event, and provide logistical and housekeeping guidance.</p>	<p>PLENARY Day 1 Recap & Re-Align 7:00 – 7:20 AM</p> <p>Workshop hosts present a brief recap of Day 1 activities and introduce the agenda for Day 2.</p>
<p>PLENARY Keynote – Setting the Context 7:20 – 7:50 AM</p> <p>Invited expert speakers deliver brief keynote addresses to illustrate the central theme of the workshop and highlight the key innovation challenges and opportunities.</p>	<p>PLENARY Solution Architecture 7:20 – 7:45 AM</p> <p>Hosts present an overview of the design objectives and envisaged outputs of the co-creation session, explaining that the journey participants will take to deconstruct and reconstruct pre-populated starting material, reflecting the key insights surfaced in Day 1.</p>
<p>PLENARY Co-Design Activity Orientation 7:50 – 8:10 AM</p> <p>Hosts explain the format and logistics for the interactive co-design activities in the workshop agenda, and introduce participants to the Solution Space topics being explored.</p>	<p>CO-DESIGN GROUPS Prototype Co-Creation 7:45 – 9:30 AM</p> <p>In pre-assigned breakout groups (each with separate virtual meeting links), participants complete a rapid prototyping exercise, facilitated by workshop hosts, to</p>

<p>CO-DESIGN GROUPS Exploring Evidence 8:10 – 9:15 AM</p> <p>Working in pre-assigned breakout groups (each with separate virtual meeting links), participants will explore and add to the body of evidence and practical knowledge related to their assigned Solution Space.</p>	<p>design innovative solutions in their Solution Space, using provided starting materials.</p>
<p>BREAK 9:15 – 9:30 AM</p>	<p>BREAK 9:30 – 9:45 AM</p>
<p>CO-DESIGN GROUPS Insight Discovery 9:30 – 10:30 AM</p> <p>Participants engage with one another in a structured activity intended to surface key insights and best practices relevant for solution-building.</p>	<p>PLENARY Peer Validation 9:45 – 10:30 AM</p> <p>Representatives of each co-design group will present their prototype solutions in plenary. Peers and invited experts will offer feedback and suggestions through live discussions and via interactive digital feedback tools.</p>
<p>PLENARY Day 2 Preview & Closing Remarks 10:30 – 11:00 AM</p>	<p>PLENARY Highlights & Closing Statements 10:30 – 11:00 AM</p>