



NUTRITION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES – OFTEN KNOWN AS “SAFETY NET” OR WELFARE PROGRAMMES – ARE AIMED AT REDUCING POVERTY AND PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.

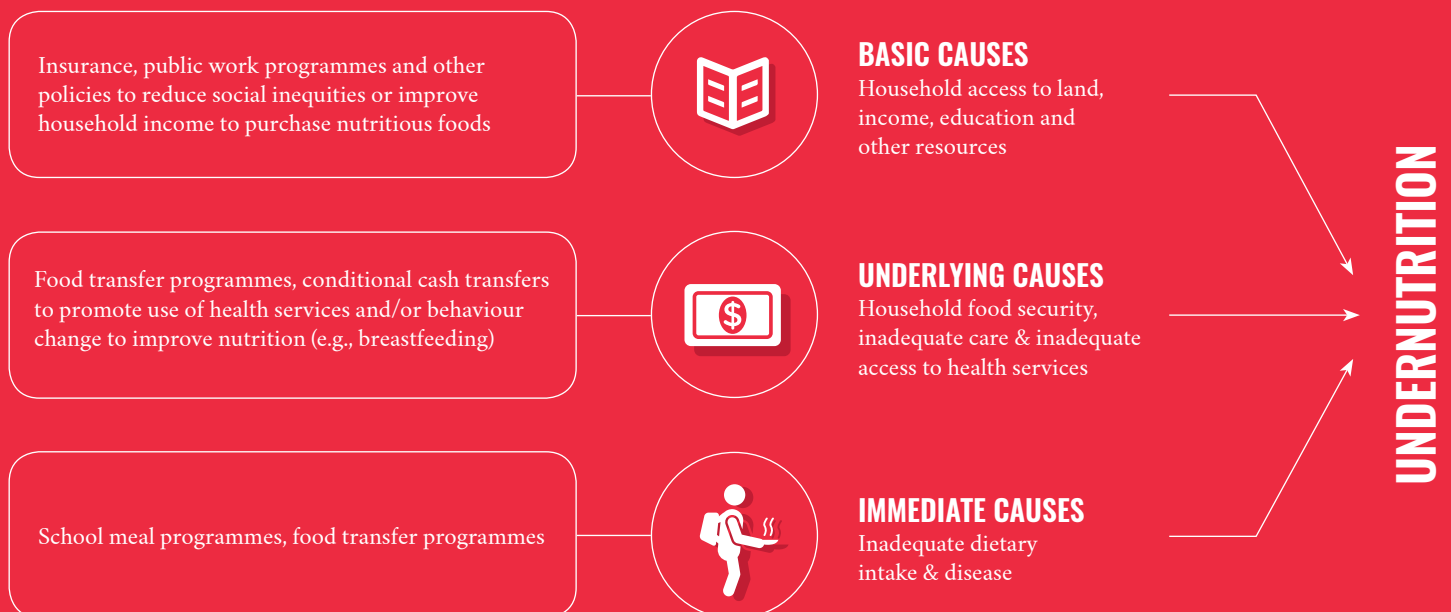
Increasingly, *nutrition-sensitive* social protection tools are being used to address the underlying causes of undernutrition.¹

Some potential nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes include programmes to increase household income to allow families to buy nutritious food, or those that provide incentives for behaviour change to improve nutrition outcomes, such as cash transfers to new mothers that are conditional upon her practicing exclusive breastfeeding.

Improving nutrition can also be seen as a fundamental form of social protection:

- Nutrition is a critical input for resilience-building – which is a core aim of social protection programmes.
- Individuals and households affected by undernutrition are more vulnerable to shocks and stresses, thus investments in nutrition can be seen as reinforcing investments in social protection.²

POTENTIAL ENTRY POINTS FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION TOOLS TO HELP PROTECT AGAINST THE CAUSES OF UNDERNUTRITION



Source: Adapted from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 'Nutrition and Social Protection', Rome, 2015.

1 NO POVERTY



Social protection can help reduce the risk of undernutrition, while investments in nutrition can complement investments aimed at achieving SDG 1 – “end poverty in all its form everywhere” – and especially the target on implementing appropriate social protection systems to benefit the world’s poorest and most vulnerable.

The Nutrition in the Global Agenda Series, issued by The Power of Nutrition, aims to clarify why and how investments in nutrition can maximise other development objectives and be a major pathway towards the achievement of the world’s shared Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.



The Power of Nutrition is a charitable foundation whose primary focus is improving the nutritional welfare and care of young children and adolescent mothers in Africa and Asia. Visit www.powerofnutrition.org and follow @gofundnutrition to learn more about our work.

¹ World Food Programme, 'Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection', available at <<https://www.wfp.org/social-protection/nutrition-sensitive>>, accessed on 18 July 2016.

² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 'Nutrition and Social Protection', Rome, 2015.