

Dr. Meera Shekar, Global Lead for Nutrition, World Bank Group



Meera Shekar is Global Lead for nutrition with the World Bank's Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice. Over the last several years, she has led the repositioning of the nutrition agenda within the World Bank and with partners that led to the new global Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) movement which is now supported by over 55 client countries and over a hundred global partners. Meera has been one of the principals for the emerging aid-architecture for the SUN, and the G8 and G20 agenda-setting process for food security and nutrition over the last several years. She provides strategic advice and guidance for the World Bank nutrition portfolio across all regions, and leads the global and country-level SUN costing and financing analyses in the World Bank. She is also the Program Manager for several key trust funds including The Power of Nutrition, Japan Trust Fund and the BMGF trust funds for nutrition. She has also worked on analytics and operations on the demographic dividend and population and development issues, among others.

Meera has lived and worked across the globe and has extensive operational experience in India, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Vietnam, Bolivia, Guatemala, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Before joining the World Bank in 2003, she led UNICEF's Health, Nutrition and Water and Sanitation teams in Tanzania and the Philippines. Meera has a PhD in international nutrition, epidemiology and population studies from Cornell University and has consulted extensively including with JHU Population Communications Services and Population Services International. Among other publications, she is the author of the health chapter in the World Bank's flagship report entitled *eTransform Africa: the Transformational use of Information and Communication Technologies in Africa, 2012*; *Repositioning Nutrition as Central to Development, 2006*; and *Scaling-up Nutrition –What will it cost 2009?* And the *Investment Framework for Nutrition, 2016*. Meera is an Adjunct professor at Tufts University, USA, and has been a guest speaker at several G8 preparatory events including the G8 parliamentarians' conference in Canada, and at several academic and global venues.

Dr. Ellen Piwoz, Senior Program Officer, Nutrition Division, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Ellen Piwoz joined the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2007 and currently leads the Nutrition Strategy Data, Analytics, and Evidence Initiative. Over the last 11 years, Ellen has shaped and managed a diverse portfolio of grants covering upstream research on healthy birth, growth, and development; testing new delivery models for improving maternal nutrition, breastfeeding, and complementary feeding at scale; and costing and financing of interventions to achieve the SDGs and 2025 World Health Assembly nutrition targets. Her current focus is on improving the quality, availability, and use of nutrition coverage, behavior, and outcome data for decision-making; improving estimates of the impact that nutrition has on health and human capital development and use of this information for programs, policy, and advocacy; and translating evidence into actionable policy and program guidance. Dr. Piwoz has a Doctor of Science degree in Human Nutrition and a Master of Health Science degree in International Health from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

Dr. Md. M. Islam Bulbul, Deputy Program Manager, National Nutrition Services and technical support to SUN Focal point, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh



Dr. Md. M. Islam Bulbul, MBBS, MPH (JPGSPH), PGD (Sweden) is a public health Nutrition specialist and well equipped with knowledge, skills in Global Health and nutrition. He is skilled in Project implementation, field research works, data collection, analysis, information system, team building, supervision and training skills in Nutrition Sector. Currently he is working under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh as a Deputy Program Manager, National Nutrition Services and technical support to SUN Focal point. Currently he was actively involved in developing National Plan of Action for Nutrition. He also involved in few multi-country study with a joint collaboration with various organizations. He completed MBBS from

Mymensingh Medical College and MPH from James P. Grant School of Public Health and Post Graduation Diploma from Lund University, Sweden. He received Nuffic Scholarship from Netherlands govt. and SIDA fellowship from Swedish govt.

Dr. Francesco Branca, Director, Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, World Health Organization



Dr. Francesco Branca is the Director of the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development in the World Health Organization, Geneva. During his tenure, WHO has established a new nutrition guideline development process and has developed a Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition with six global targets. He has been leading the preparation of the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition.

He has been a Senior Scientist at the Italian Food and Nutrition research Institute where he was leading studies on the effects of food and nutrients on human health at the different stages of the life cycle and on the impact of public health nutrition programmes. He has been President of the Federation of the European Nutrition Societies in 2003-2007.

Dr. Branca graduated in Medicine and Surgery and specialized in Diabetology and Metabolic Diseases at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Roma and obtained a PhD in Nutrition at Aberdeen University.

Abigail Perry, Senior Nutrition Advisor, DFID

Abigail Perry is currently the Senior Nutrition Adviser at the UK Department for International Development. Since joining DFID in 2011, Abi has provided leadership for DFID's nutrition policy and has provided technical support for DFID's development and humanitarian nutrition programming in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Prior to joining DFID Abi worked for several years with Save the Children UK and Action Against Hunger on nutrition policy and programming. She has also taken on research and capacity development roles with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and University College London. Abi has diverse experience across a range of nutrition issues and has particular interest in data, nutrition in emergencies and the global nutrition architecture.