



Asia-Pacific Launch of the Global Report: Ready to learn and thrive: School health and nutrition around the world

Date: 20 June 2023 (Tuesday)

Time: 13.00-14.45 pm Bangkok time

Format: Webinar (Zoom): https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bg73eKfgTq6lhHx5-2YfDQ

Language: English

Background:

Good health and nutrition are a prerequisite for children to learn and grow, and a crucial investment for more sustainable, inclusive development and peaceful futures. School health and nutrition programming is about investing both in schoolchildren and adolescents' health, nutrition and well-being and in their learning, with benefits extending to their homes and communities. Healthy, well-nourished and educated children and young people can achieve their full potential, and support sustainable social and economic growth of countries.

UNESCO, UNICEF and WFP in collaboration with FAO, GPE, and WHO published the joint report [Ready to Learn and thrive: school health and nutrition around the world](#) to generate and disseminate better evidence to inform programmatic decision making and advocacy for high quality programmes. This ground-breaking publication brings together multiple data sources and case studies from around the world to provide a global overview of school health and nutrition policies and programmes, showing that these are a practical, affordable and effective way to support learners' well-being and development. It encourages efforts to improve, scale up, sustain and monitor progress of these programmes to address learners' needs holistically, so that all children and adolescents can learn and thrive.

According to this latest global status report, in the Asia-Pacific region, some elements of a comprehensive school health and nutrition programme have been implemented more than others. The report further notes that more than 80 percent of Central and Southern Asia countries have national standards on health-promoting schools, a figure that falls to just over 60 percent for Eastern and South-Eastern Asia countries. Furthermore, more than 50 percent of countries in the region include nutrition education in their school curriculum and in extracurricular activities. However, the report also observed that the implementation of school health programmes in the region is not holistic or completely aligned with the health-promoting schools approach ([2021 WHO-UNESCO global standards](#)). Some key messages from the global status report were highlighted, such as the health, nutrition and well-being of learners are key determinants of education outcomes and an integral part of quality education; almost every country in the world implements school health and nutrition programmes; and school health and nutrition programmes are a cost-effective investment, feasible in all settings, and deliver significant development gains.

Against this backdrop, and following the global launch of the joint report on 8 February 2023, a regional launch event is proposed for Asia and the Pacific, organized by the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on School Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing.

Objectives:

The objectives of the launch event are to:

- a) Showcase and disseminate the findings of the joint report, highlighting evidence gathered and findings from the Asia-Pacific region, and promote awareness and discussion on the report’s key messages and recommendations;
- b) Raise awareness of the importance of school health and nutrition as key determinants of both learning and well-being outcomes and an integral part of quality, inclusive education (SDG 4);
- c) Highlight country examples of school health and nutrition programmes being implemented by governments, schools, and young people in the region, and reflect on these experiences in the context of the research findings.

Participants:

The virtual launch event is open to an interested public and will invite participation by diverse stakeholders involved in school health and nutrition programmes/ health-promoting schools, in Asia-Pacific including:

- Ministries of education, Ministries of health, and related ministries,
- Youth-led or youth-serving networks and civil society organizations
- Researchers, teachers, parents, school principals
- Individual SHN and well-being experts and advocates
- Organizations working on SHN and well-being

Provisional Agenda

Time	Item
13.00 – 13.12 pm	<p>Welcome & Opening remarks: Event Moderator: Ms Titaya Punyaratanabandhu, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations Thailand</p> <p>Welcoming remarks Dr Suvajee Good, Regional Advisor and focal point for health promoting schools, WHO SEARO, on behalf of the TWG on School Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing and co-published report partner</p> <p>Show video on Healthy and educated: School health and nutrition for every learner</p>

13.12 – 13.35 pm	<p>Presentation of key highlights from the report: Ms Jenelle Babb, Regional Advisor, Education for Health and Wellbeing, UNESCO Bangkok</p>
13.35 – 14.35 pm	<p>Panel Discussion Panel Moderator: Ms Vera Mayer, Regional School Feeding Advisor, WFP</p> <p>Investing in school health and nutrition: the importance of a healthy learning environment for quality education Speaker: Dr. Maria Corazon C. Dumlao, Chief of the School Health Division, Department of Education, the Philippines</p> <p>Ensuring comprehensive and sustainable school health and nutrition programmes Speaker: Dr. Susie Perera, Deputy Director General Public Health Services II, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Empowering youth as champions of health Speaker: Ms Neha Malla, Co-Founder & Director of Programs, Social Changemakers and Innovators (SOCHAI) Nepal</p> <p>From policy to practice: putting learners’ health and well-being at the centre of the schooling experience Speaker: Ms Joyce Tiko, the Head of School from Bishop Kempthorne Primary, Fiji</p> <p>Q&A</p>
14.35 – 14.45 pm	<p>Wrap-up and closing remarks: Ms. Adriana Rietsema, Health Specialist, UNICEF ROSA</p>