NUTRITION
An overview of our strategy

May 2015
Our vision:
All women and children have the nutrition they need to live healthy and productive lives.
THE PROBLEM

45% of deaths of children under age 5 are attributable to undernutrition

Millions more children suffer permanent physical & cognitive impairments as a result of undernutrition—reducing their productivity and earnings as adults.

Sources: Black, et. al., “Maternal and child undernutrition and overweight in low-income and middle-income countries,” The Lancet, 2013; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation analysis conducted in partnership with John Hopkins School of Public Health
CHILDHOOD DEATHS DECLINING WORLDWIDE

A combination of vaccines, malaria prevention, and improved newborn health care has helped reduce under-five child mortality globally since 1960.

Source: The World Bank
We aim to cut the number of under 5 deaths in half by 2030.

We cannot do this without addressing malnutrition.
THE PROBLEM: A LOOK AT UNDERNUTRITION’S CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

Undernutrition is a complex problem with serious consequences

Underlying causes

Under-five and maternal deaths
Impaired physical and cognitive development
Decreased economic productivity
Compromised adult health & high risk of intergenerational perpetuation

The direct causes

Malnourished child manifested as
Stunted
Wasted
Small for gestational age
Sub-optimally breastfed
Micronutrient deficient

Poor adolescent / maternal nutritional status

The problem

The consequences

Inadequate dietary intake (macro and micronutrients)
Insufficient nutrient absorption due to disease

Food insecurity
Lack of social safety nets
Poor dietary diversity
Suboptimal BF and complementary feeding
Poor parental education
Lack of women empowerment
Early conception
Low birth spacing
Unsanitary environments and practices
Poor health services
Poor health demand
Poor immune systems
PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE

**Maharashtra**: Stunting reduced by 1/3 in 7 years

**Brazil**: Stunting reduced by 80% in a generation

**Global** Vitamin A coverage increased from 16-69%
BUT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE

- Under-resourced & under-prioritized
- Failure to scale proven solutions
- Lack of data
- Weak accountability
BUILDING ON PROGRESS

We’ll continue…

- Focusing on the critical 1,000 day window
- Investing in what works, including breastfeeding and fortification
- Researching the challenges and opportunities for nutrition
- Increasing the quantity and quality of funding
- Generating the evidence-base

And expand to…

- Increase focus on adolescent girls, pre-conception and maternal nutrition
- Drive scale-up through advocacy and technical assistance
- Catalyze a data revolution
- Systematically bring nutrition and agriculture together
MOVING FROM VISION TO ACTION

Vision
All women and children have the nutrition they need to live healthy and productive lives.

Strategy Goals
- Increase coverage of proven interventions
- Develop and test new solutions

Country Impact
- Food Systems

Advocacy, Policy & Alignment
Data, Analytics & Evidence
New Solutions

Increase coverage of proven interventions
Develop and test new solutions
All women and children have the nutrition they need to live healthy and productive lives.
NEW SOLUTIONS

**Goal:** Increase understanding of the nutrition-related determinants of healthy birth, growth, and development across the lifecycle; and identify, test, and introduce new solutions.

**Our approach**

**Understand the problem**
- Research to understand the actionable drivers of healthy birth, growth, and development; the health and cognitive consequences of undernutrition; the optimal package of interventions; and the most impactful time to intervene.

**Introduce new solutions**
- Develop, test, & rollout solutions to undernutrition, including those already in the pipeline based on prior research (e.g., SQ-LNS, nutrient-dense crops, multiple micronutrient supplements) and new ones that emerge.

**Learn to implement better**
- Research to address challenges that impede implementation. Part of this effort will focus specifically on developing new approaches for reaching women and girls and on addressing social and gender norms.
DATA, ANALYTICS, AND EVIDENCE

Goal: Valid, reliable and timely data are available to inform policy and programming and to track progress at the global and national levels; and high quality, up-to-date evidence is generated, interpreted, and disseminated to support country programs.

“Nutrition needs a data revolution”
--Global Nutrition Report 2014

Our approach

Develop new data tools
- Develop new methods, tools, & platforms to enable accurate and cost-effective collection and analysis of key nutrition data (e.g., IYCF practices; dietary intake; anthropometric & biochemical status, intervention coverage)

Expand use of data
- Support efforts to develop a global consensus on a “blueprint for nutrition data.” In anchor countries, support efforts to improve nutrition data systems and analytic capabilities (in line with global guidance) and fill key data gaps

Make evidence actionable
- Develop and disseminate evidence on the impact and cost effectiveness of nutrition interventions and support the WHO and other expert groups in developing guidance for countries on nutritional interventions
Goal: Increase financial and political commitment to nutrition and more effective spending of existing resources by country governments and donors; and improve capacity and coordination of global architecture to catalyze and support country action

Our approach

Mobilize resources
- Drive an increase in high-burden country and donor funding for nutrition, by making nutrition a higher priority issue, holding funders accountable to existing commitments, and cultivating new spending pledges

Improve spending effectiveness
- Maximize the impact of nutrition funding, by ensuring global focus is on achieving the 6 WHA nutrition targets and supporting efforts to improve donor coordination and ensure funding is directed to most impactful approaches

Build global capacity
- Strengthen the capacity of global institutions and actors to advise and support countries in developing and executing plans to tackle undernutrition
FOOD SYSTEMS

Goal: Ensure equitable access to safe, affordable, nutritious diets year-round

Our approach

Data and Policy
- Drive an increase in data-driven agriculture-nutrition policy-making and programs, by supporting efforts to fill evidence gaps, develop new data tools, and by advocating for agriculture programs / ministries to integrate nutritional goals.

Production
- Leverage agricultural production and extension systems to increase access to nutritious inputs (e.g., biofortified crops, seeds for nutrient-rich crops) and to deliver nutrition knowledge.

Markets & Demand
- Increase availability of, access to, and demand for safe nutritious food by reducing seasonal fluctuations in the supply and price of foods, making food more affordable, increasing consumer demand for nutrient-rich foods, and improving the safety of food supply.

Women’s Empowerment
- Increase women’s empowerment in and through agriculture by increasing their decision-making power regarding agriculture production, expanding their access to and control of household resources, and reducing their workload.
COUNTRY IMPACT - OVERVIEW

Country Impact

**Anchor geographies:** Partner with countries to accelerate effective coverage at scale

**Replication geographies:** Multiply impact of approaches and learnings

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**Anchor geographies**
Partner with countries to:
- Apply a systems approach to diagnose challenges and opportunities
- Coordinate high-impact solutions

**Replication geographies**
Multiply impact through:
- Partners/grantees
- Technical assistance
- Advocacy
Nutrition is an investment we must all make to give every woman and child the opportunity to survive and thrive.