

AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO IMPROVING NUTRITION

Malnutrition contributes to almost half of all child deaths worldwide and undermines the development of children who do survive. Poor diets are the leading risk factor for death globally. Ensuring families can afford and access safe, nutritious foods is critical to achieving good nutrition. Progress on reducing malnutrition and improving diet quality has been slow, and food systems are failing to deliver affordable, healthy foods equitably.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is joining an existing collaboration with the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation and the Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) to mobilize at least \$100 million of financing over five years to tackle the root causes of malnutrition in low- and middle-income countries, address the effects of COVID-19 on malnutrition and food insecurity and leverage private sector solutions to reduce malnutrition globally. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) provide the majority of food consumed in Sub-Saharan Africa, but often lack access to the capital needed to improve and grow. This collaboration will address the financing gap for operating in the nutritious foods space.

Through this collaboration, USAID, through Feed the Future, and ECF intend to join forces with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition and Incofin Investment Management to support the establishment of the Nutritious Foods Financing Facility (N3F), a first-of-its-kind investment fund that will bolster these critical SMEs and promote well-nourished communities in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through well-honed investment criteria, the N3F aims to directly impact diet quality while advancing equity by prioritizing women-owned SMEs in its investments, promoting food safety and reducing the environmental impact of the food supply chain.

Last updated: September 2021



A mother feeds her daughter yogurt prepared at home in Bangladesh. Feed the Future has promoted the equitable consumption of animal-source foods, particularly milk, dairy products and meat, through courtyard sessions with local community agents and by integrating nutrition messaging into private sector service delivery.

Photo credit: ACIDI/VOCA via the Feed the Future Bangladesh Livestock Production for Improved Nutrition Activity