

sight and life



Action in Brief

Joining Forces for Last-Mile Nutrition

Our partnership with World Vision and DSM

Two billion people worldwide suffer from micronutrient deficiencies, and 149 million children under the age of 5 are stunted. Many of these are in 'last-mile communities' – communities that are geographically isolated, lack infrastructure, and have limited access to communication. Reaching the last mile is the final leg in delivering the products and services that can improve nutrition and lift these communities out of poverty. The Last Mile Nutrition Partnership between *Sight and Life*, World Vision and DSM is a public-private partnership with the shared goal of improving nutrition and livelihoods for children and women, especially from last-mile communities.

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Pooling resources to deliver innovative solutions

Joining Forces for Last-Mile Nutrition enables three partners – a think-tank, an NGO and a corporate – to pool resources and expertise with the aim of delivering innovative, market-based solutions for optimal nutrition, at scale. Each partner brings to the table an open mindset and a propensity for innovation, along with shared values, principles and goals. This creates an environment conducive to the development of innovative solutions at both global and national level that can be translated into community-level solutions delivered via local partners.

EXAMPLE PROJECTS

Rwanda, 2018

'Maize-cob model' innovation – A value chain transformation

In 2017, we designed a business model for improving post-harvest efficiency in Rwanda by improving the quality and quantity of

maize produced by local farmers. This involved a process innovation whereby farmers sold maize on the cob instead of in shelled form – the sale of shelled maize having resulted in high levels of post-harvest losses. The result was a transformation of the maize value chain. It left farmers with more money in their pockets and more time at their disposal, and it increased the availability, accessibility and consumption of affordable staple foods for mothers and children in East Africa.

A key success factor was the establishment of the social enterprise Africa Improved Foods (AIF). AIF was set up as a joint venture between DSM and the Rwandan Government to source high-quality soybeans and maize from smallholder farmers, cooperatives, NGOs and other suppliers. In addition, the Rwandan Government became an institutional buyer alongside the World Food Programme, making the produce available to malnourished Rwandan women and children as well as to the population of the wider region.

An impact study by the University of Chicago (Illinois, US), projects US \$758 million as the net incremental value-added of



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AIF to the Rwandan economy between 2016 and 2031, including through improved livelihood of farmers who are supported by World Vision. This study demonstrates that the project's 5-year vision to target 196 cooperatives, with 48,282 farmers aggregating 28,000 metric tons of maize, will not only reduce the number of populations at risk of nutritional deficiencies but will also deliver a significant economic boost for the entire nation.

Indonesia, 2019

Egg Value Chain Innovation – More and better eggs for improved nutrition

Some 87 million Indonesians suffer from food insecurity, with one in every three children being stunted. The Partnership's *Eggciting* project aims to transform the poultry business model in Indonesia to create a greater supply of, and demand for, eggs in order to improve nutrition on the island of Sulawesi, an area recently affected by an earthquake and accompanying tsunami.

On Sulawesi, where the population has access to an average of just two eggs per person per month, the prevalence of stunting is particularly high. Eggs offer one of the most effective means of improving dietary intake because they are nutrient-dense, easy to obtain, can be cooked using a variety of techniques, and are relatively affordable. A highly digestible source of quality protein, they are important for linear growth, and they contain essential micronutrients such as choline and essential lipids, which support brain development.

Egg hub innovation pilots were implemented in the provinces of Sigi and Palu in 2019. These pilots have the potential to rapidly improve the nutritional status of the island's population. The project includes a focus on the introduction of fortified chicken feed so that higher-quality eggs will become available on the local market, as well as the use of social marketing for encouraging the consumption of eggs.

Delivering social results as well as business results

Efficiency-focused approaches such as our partnership help accelerate efforts to implement the SDGs in order to more effectively support last-mile communities. Our partnership shows that it is possible to deliver social results and business results at the same time. We are demonstrating that by joining forces with complementary partners, we can together transform the food system as a whole. We can improve the efficiency of food value chains from end to end while benefiting everyone involved – from last-mile communities through social enterprises and local governments to the public and private partners delivering these important initiatives.

Further information

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