THE CASE FOR INVESTING IN CHRONIC MALNUTRITION

Chronic malnutrition is a preventable disease caused by an inadequate nutrient intake in the first 1,000 days of a child’s life (from a woman’s pregnancy until age two).

GLOBALLY, MALNUTRITION COSTS US$3.5 TRILLION TO THE ECONOMY EVERY YEAR.

- REDUCED ABILITY TO LEARN: 70% of the brain is formed within the 1,000 days
- WEAK IMMUNE SYSTEM: higher risk of dying from infectious diseases.
- STUNTED PHYSICAL GROWTH: low-height-for-age.

more likely to drop out of school and earn 22% less as adults

- Overall, per capita income loss is around 7% of GDP
- a 1% loss in adult height results in a 1.4% physical productivity loss

HIGH RETURN ON INVESTMENT:

The investments in interventions to reduce chronic malnutrition by 1/3 globally would generate about $417 billion in economic benefits. Every $1 in nutrition generates $11 in benefits to local economies.

SCALE OF THE PROBLEM:

144 million children globally, 1 in every 3 children under 5 in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

UNITLIFE 2020
Economic rationale

unitlife.org  @unitlifeorg
UNITLIFE supports solutions at the intersection of nutrition, nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart agriculture, and the empowerment of women, with the primary goal of improving the nutritional status of children and future mothers.

UNITLIFE’s Objective:

Mobilize US$ 100 million in the next 5 years to provide 1.5 million mothers and children with access to nutritious foods around the world.

About UNITLIFE

UNITLIFE is the United Nations initiative fighting chronic malnutrition through innovation.

UNITLIFE finances nutritious food systems and invests in women’s empowerment and climate-smart agriculture. With this approach, UNITLIFE aims to save the next generation.