

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



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

WEAK IMMUNE SYSTEM :

higher risk of dying from infectious diseases.



Overall, per capita income loss is around 7% of GDP

STUNTED PHYSICAL GROWTH:

low-height-for-age.



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.

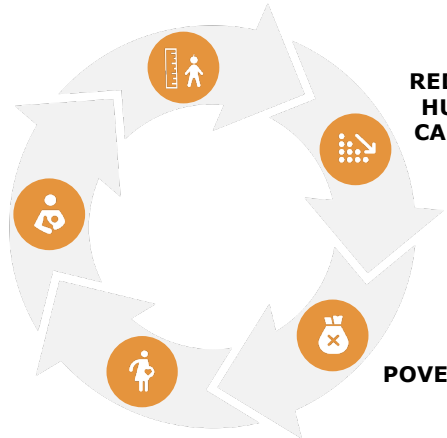
SCALE OF THE PROBLEM:



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

CHRONICALLY MALNOURISHED CHILD

UNDERWEIGHT BABY



REDUCED HUMAN CAPITAL

POVERTY

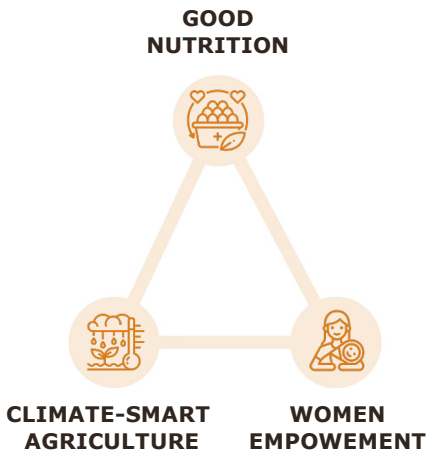
MALNOURISHED MOTHER

MALNUTRITION SLOWS ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PERPETUATES POVERTY

UNITLIFE INVESTS IN:

- nutrient-rich and climate-resilient crops
- biofortification (increasing the nutritional value of crops)
- food fortification (adding essential micronutrients to foods)
- extending shelf life and preserving the nutritional value of foods
- connecting women farmers to markets
- nutrition awareness and behaviour-change programs
- promotion of home gardens and nutrient-rich off-season crops
- innovative and sustainable approaches

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:

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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.