

# NLIFT

NUTRITION LEVERAGE AND INFLUENCE FOR TRANSFORMATION

## CAMEROON KANGAROO MOTHER CARE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT BOND: INNOVATIVE FINANCING HELPING NEWBORNS SURVIVE AND THRIVE

### Opportunity

Being born too small (low birth weight) or early (preterm birth) are leading causes of under-five child deaths in Cameroon. Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) is a proven practice recommended for preterm or low birth weight babies, which involves holding the baby skin-to-skin on the mother's or other family member's chest — ideally feeding them only breastmilk — and having close follow up of the mother and baby once they return home. Cameroon is committed to scaling up KMC but lacks the infrastructure, equipment, staff knowledge and management support to deliver this life-saving practice at its hospitals.

### Investment

With support from NLIFT and others, quality KMC will be scaled up to 10 hospitals across Cameroon. The NLIFT investment is critical to launching the Cameroon Kangaroo Mother Care Development Impact Bond (KMC DIB) — the first ever in the field of nutrition. Impact bonds are entirely focused on outcomes. Once launched, the KMC DIB investor will provide funds up-front to strengthen hospital infrastructure, equipment, staff knowledge and management needed to deliver quality KMC across Cameroon. This start-up capital is returned to the KMC DIB investor by KMC DIB outcome funders only if a set of independently evaluated targets are met.

### Innovation and leverage

Many countries — including Cameroon — lack the resources, technical expertise and training to implement quality KMC at scale. The “pay-for-success” DIB model is an innovative way to fill this gap. The NLIFT investment will leverage the DIB's robust and frequent data collection and analysis. This enables better tracking of the target population and informs more adaptive and evidence-based program management and decision-making processes. Nutrition International, through NLIFT, together with the Government of Cameroon, will pay for success — pre-determined quality KMC practices and infrastructure indicators.



### INVESTMENT AT A GLANCE



#### Duration

2.5 years (2019-2021)



#### Partners

Cameroon Ministry of Public Health  
Global Financing Facility  
Grand Challenges Canada  
Fondation Kangourou Cameroun  
MaRS Centre for Impact Investing  
Social Finance UK  
World Bank



#### Reach

10  
2.2K

Hospitals  
across 5 regions  
in Cameroon

Low birth weight  
and/or preterm  
infants and mothers



#### Investment (\$ CAD)

\$1M  
\$250K

in outcome  
funding

in DIB design  
grant funding



#### Dollars leveraged (\$ CAD)

\$2.6M  
\$1M

from the Government  
of Cameroon through  
the Global Financing  
Facility

from the investor  
(Grand Challenges  
Canada)



## Expected outcomes

- Improve the survival rates of over 2,200 low birth weight and premature babies in the target hospitals
- Improve the health and nutrition outcomes for these low birth weight and premature babies
- Integrate quality KMC into Cameroon's public healthcare system, which ensures long-term sustainability and expansion to other hospitals across the country
- Generate evidence for using a "pay-for-success" DIB model to implement and scale up quality KMC in other countries with high infant mortality and morbidity

## About NLIFT

Nutrition Leverage and Influence for Transformation (NLIFT) is a pioneering initiative that seeks to integrate nutrition interventions into existing development programs, platforms or networks that do not already focus on nutrition. With a \$25 million anchor investment provided by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada, this Nutrition International-led initiative collaborates with exciting new partners in health, education, agriculture and other newcomers to the nutrition landscape, leveraging their strengths, reach and resources to develop investments that ensure more people have access to proven nutrition solutions.



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For more  
information:

[nlift@NutritionIntl.org](mailto:nlift@NutritionIntl.org)

## About Nutrition International

Founded in 1992, Nutrition International is a global organization dedicated to delivering proven nutrition interventions to those who need them. Working in partnership with countries, donors and implementers, our experts conduct cutting-edge nutrition research, support critical policy formulation, and integrate nutrition into broader development programs. In more than 60 countries, primarily in Asia and Africa, Nutrition International nourishes people to nourish life. [NutritionIntl.org](http://NutritionIntl.org)



**NUTRITION**  
INTERNATIONAL

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