

# PARTNERING WITH THE ZUELLIG FAMILY FOUNDATION FOR STRENGTHENED URBAN NUTRITION GOVERNANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

## Opportunity

In the Philippines, over half of the population lives in cities. Urbanization brings new nutrition challenges such as non-communicable diseases and indigenous communities being left behind. Local leadership is key in changing systems and innovating programs for better nutrition and health outcomes. The ZFF developed the Health Change Model through which the organization trains and mentors local government officials, and develops their leadership competencies for improved health governance. ZFF's approach has demonstrated significant impacts on health in communities.

## Investment

Through this NLIFT investment, Nutrition International and the ZFF — in collaboration with city mayors, the Department of Health, regional and city health and nutrition managers — will co-create an Urban Nutrition Strategy to improve nutrition governance focusing on the First 1,000 Days. Using ZFF's leadership and governance intervention in the target cities as a platform, the collaboration will strengthen capacity of target city governments to plan, finance, and govern integrated nutrition service delivery networks. The project will coach and mentor city and village governments on systems-approach for nutrition through enabling policies and participatory governance, multi-sectoral collaboration, and improvements in technical capacities of health and nutrition workers. With the aim to improve nutrition in the First 1,000 Days — a priority recognized by the government with the adoption of the Philippines' First 1,000 Days Law — the project will develop models for urban nutrition governance that can be replicated in other cities.

## Innovation and leverage

The NLIFT investment will leverage ZFF's existing health governance platform and strengthen the focus on nutrition interventions. It will explore the links between the First 1,000 Days and the prevention of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, prevalence of which is increasing in urbanizing areas. This innovation will create a model for communicating health and nutrition issues to city chief executives, and influence their policy and financing decisions and governance strategies.



## INVESTMENT AT A GLANCE



**Duration**  
2019-2020



**Partners**  
Department of Health  
National Nutrition Council  
City Government of Puerto Princesa, Palawan  
City Government of Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat  
City Government of Tagum, Davao del Norte  
Zuellig Family Foundation



**Reach**

**350+** city officials and barangay health officials  
**700+** public health professionals and frontline health workers  
**43K** women, children and adolescent girls will benefit from improved nutrition services



**Investment (\$ CAD)**

**\$ 1.1M**



**Dollars leveraged (\$ CAD)**

**\$ 1.1M**



## Expected outcomes

### Immediate:

- Improved nutrition leadership and governance competencies of city mayors, their nutrition councils and health teams in target cities
- Improved management competencies of health and nutrition workers in implementing appropriate and gender-sensitive programming for the First 1,000 Days
- Improved data management for evidence-based planning, policy development, and implementation of nutrition programs.

### Intermediate:

- Cities implemented strengthened policies and ordinances for improved implementation of nutrition programs focused on the First 1,000 Days at the city and barangay levels.
- Cities implemented integrated nutrition programs focused on the First 1,000 Days into existing services for women, infants, young children, and adolescent girls.
- Systems for improved access of pregnant and lactating women, and their children are strengthened.

## About NLIFT

Nutrition Leverage and Influence for Transformation (NLIFT) is a pioneering initiative that seeks to integrate nutrition interventions into existing development platforms that do not already focus on nutrition.

With a 25 million dollar anchor investment provided by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada, this Nutrition International-led initiative collaborates with exciting newcomers to the nutrition landscape — leveraging their resources to reach vulnerable people, especially women and adolescent girls.



**About the Zuellig Family Foundation (ZFF)** ZFF is a non-stock, non-profit family foundation whose purpose is to be a catalyst for the achievement of better health outcomes for all Filipinos. The Foundation operationalized its vision of enabling local health systems through its development strategy, the Health Change Model, which posits that to achieve better health outcomes, the communities must have access to quality health services made possible by a transformed health system that is lead and managed by responsible and committed health leaders. Since 2008, the Foundation's leadership approach has been mainstreamed in nearly 800 municipalities through key and strategic partnerships with government agencies and development partners. [www.zuelligfoundation.org](http://www.zuelligfoundation.org)

**For more information:**  
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## About Nutrition International

Founded in 1992, Nutrition International is a global organization dedicated to delivering proven nutrition interventions to those who need them most. 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)

