**Opportunity**

In Nigeria, the prevalence of anaemia is high among women, affecting 48.5 percent of non-pregnant women and 57.9 percent of pregnant women. Globally, it is difficult for women to obtain accurate nutrition information and access crucial iron folic acid supplementation (IFAS) to prevent and control anaemia. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provides sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services that reach adolescent girls and women in over 45 countries, but there are no nutrition interventions integrated into its SRH platform.

**Investment**

With financial and technical support from NLIFT, UNFPA will strengthen the capacity of nurses, midwives, teachers and mentors to deliver quality information on nutrition, anaemia, and IFAS to adolescent girls in safe space schools and women during nutrition counseling sessions in antenatal and postnatal care, and family planning sessions. UNFPA will also generate recommendations for improving the supply chain for these supplements. Through this two-pronged approach, the investment will raise awareness among adolescent girls and women on nutrition and anaemia to increase demand for IFA and lay the groundwork for improving the supply of these supplements.

**Innovation and leverage**

The NLIFT investment will leverage UNFPA’s existing SRH health programs and initiatives to integrate nutrition interventions to support gender equality and the economic empowerment of women and adolescent girls. This investment has the potential to inform the scale-up to reach over 15 million women per year across 150 countries through UNFPA’s SRH platform.
Expected outcomes

• Increased capacity of nurses, midwives, teachers and mentors to deliver quality information on nutrition, anaemia, and IFA supplements

• Develop and disseminate nutrition training modules to be included in the mandatory continuing professional development program for nurses and midwives and in the safe school curriculum

• Improved knowledge among women and adolescent girls around nutrition and anaemia, and increased demand for IFA supplements

• Identify barriers and opportunities for improvement of the IFA supply chain to better reach adolescent girls and women in Nigeria

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

About UNFPA

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is dedicated to delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.

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 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 vulnerable people have access to proven nutrition solutions.

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