

# Gender Equality and Nutrition

Access to good nutrition is a universal human right. Yet, while malnutrition affects one out of every three people in some form, its impacts are heaviest on women and girls. That is why a focus on gender that seeks to address this disproportionate burden and its root causes underpins Nutrition International's approach. Better nutrition, particularly for women and girls, is a critical element in the drive for gender equality, women's empowerment, and the achievement of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year, we introduced our comprehensive Program Gender Equality Strategy, which will guide the integration of gender equality and provide a roadmap for our staff and partners to enable us to scale up our contribution to gender equality. Grounded in the SDGs, the World Health Assembly's Global Nutrition Targets 2025, and global efforts to promote gender equality, this strategy will mainstream gender equality in a phased approach.

It will start with capacity building and organization-wide gender

equality training for staff, as well as enhancing technical advice and quality assurance in gender analysis to inform designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating gender sensitive and gender responsive programs. As a result of our concrete commitment to gender equality, Nutrition International has engaged new partners and built programs and initiatives through which we are helping girls and women around the world become advocates for their own health and nutrition.

Nutrition International will remain focused on women and girls' self-efficacy as well as engagement and collaboration with allies. We will continue to engage men and boys in gender equality issues in order to deliver gender sensitive and responsive nutrition programs. We will also join our voice to those of our partners to advocate for promoting gender equality through all development programs.

For more information on Nutrition International's Program Gender Equality Strategy, please visit [NutritionIntl.org/about/gender-equality-nutrition/](http://NutritionIntl.org/about/gender-equality-nutrition/)

## REDEFINING OUR IMPACT: COVERAGE, LEVERAGE & INFLUENCE

In 2017-2018, Nutrition International delivered impact through **coverage** by implementing **low-cost, high-impact interventions**; **leverage** by utilizing new delivery platforms, innovative technology and financing; and **influence** through research, advocacy and knowledge dissemination. Underpinning all of our work is a focus on **gender equality**, bringing a gender lens directly into our projects, programs and partnerships.

# A new chapter in Nutrition International's development

At Nutrition International, "Nourish Life" isn't just a tag line – it's a belief that unlocking human potential depends on good nutrition. We believe a better world is possible, but to build it we need to fundamentally change the way we approach development. We need to break down silos, disrupt the status quo and put the people we serve – and the challenges they face – at the centre of all we do. In essence, *we need to do development differently*.

To ensure that our investments in people are generating the greatest impact possible, this past year we have taken a hard look at the evolving challenges and opportunities in the world around us, tested our assumptions, and refined our approach. The result is our new 2018-2024 Strategic Plan which sets our course for the next six years and redefines how, where, and for whom Nutrition International achieves impact.

We will continue to deliver **coverage**: the low-cost, high-impact interventions that Nutrition International is recognized for the world over. We will be more intentional about our **leverage**: engaging new delivery platforms as well as innovative technologies and financing. And we will maximize our **influence**: through research, advocacy and knowledge dissemination. These pillars are underpinned by a systemic focus on gender equality, bringing a gender lens directly into our projects, programs and partnerships.

Nutrition International is a global organization focused on action – and we achieve impact thanks to the drive, creativity and skill of our people and our partners. To our partners – it is an honour to join hands with you to fight malnutrition. To our board members – thank you for your leadership and encouragement. To the people we serve impacted by malnutrition – we are with you and are committed to becoming the best we can be so that we can do the greatest good possible.

Peace,



**Joel C. Spicer**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nutrition International is fortunate to have a global Board of Directors who share their knowledge and expertise in nutrition, global health, gender equality and other key areas. With our Board's wise counsel and consistent support, we are confident in our ability to implement our 2018-2024 Strategic Plan and follow through on our mission to nourish life and empower people living in vulnerable situations around the world.

BOARD CHAIR  
**David de Ferranti**

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS  
**Masood Ahmed**  
**Joyce Banda**  
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**Megan Cain**  
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**Timothy Evans**  
**Shaila Khan Leekha**  
**Vivian Onano**

CHAIR EMERITUS  
**Strive Masiyiwa**

PARTNERS & DONORS  
Nutrition International is deeply grateful for the support of our generous donors and trusted partners who enable us to conduct cutting-edge research, influence policy, improve delivery and integrate nutrition interventions.

Thank you for empowering us to make a real and sustainable difference for the people we serve.

## INFLUENCE

Nutrition International laid the groundwork for the first-ever global folate strategy thanks to support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Nutrition International has begun leading a Folate Task Team with inputs from global experts and will support the development and dissemination of knowledge, as well as build capacity for laboratory folate testing.



UNICEF Kenya and Nutrition International provided financial and technical support to Kenya's Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Dietetics in developing guidelines to secure and implement workplace breastfeeding facilities, and delivered two workshops to develop and finalize the workplace breastfeeding guidelines and implementation framework.

Also in Kenya, Nutrition International held high-level meetings and successfully advocated for county governments to increase funding for nutrition.

Enhancing Nutrition Services to Improve Maternal and Child Health (ENRICH), a project led by World Vision in which Nutrition International is a partner, continued its work to improve nutrition in five countries, including Kenya, where the National Food Fortification Strategic Plan was finalized.



Nutrition International reached 10 million people with behaviour change messages on the use of zinc for treating diarrhoea in children in Nigeria.



In India, Nutrition International successfully advocated for increased budgets for training teachers under the weekly iron and folic acid supplementation program.



In partnership with Bangladesh's largest newspaper, Prothom Alo, Nutrition International organized a roundtable attended by policy makers, senior government officials, nutrition leaders and researchers that called for increase investments in nutrition of women and girls.



Nutrition International supported government in the development and implementation of Pakistan's first ever national multi-sectoral nutrition strategy.



Nutrition International's Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN) project is collaborating with the Philippine government to deliver the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 2017-2022. Along with UNICEF, we supported the publication of *The Ascent of Local Governments in Nutrition in the Philippines, A Compendium of Actions on Nutrition*, a compilation of stories from local government units which have shown outstanding nutrition leadership. The Compendium will be used as a tool to inspire action by more local bodies to plan, act and monitor nutrition activities effectively.

Nutrition International worked with the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN) Secretariat to operationalize the SUN Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) framework, setting up a MEAL database that would allow the systematic assessment of SUN countries' progress in scaling up nutrition, using established global indicators and targets.

# Nutrition International will transform the lives of 1 Billion by 2030

People affected by malnutrition

particularly women, adolescent girls and children

by improving their nutritional status.

## EVIDENCE GENERATION

Since its inception in 1992, Nutrition International has evolved to become a global centre of technical excellence in nutrition. Our global team blends research, technical assistance, advocacy and partnerships to improve policies and programs and to make more resources available to the people we serve.

### Evidence generation, translation & utilization

To inform its programs and global policy, Nutrition International generates knowledge through implementation research, program evaluation, surveillance and empirical research. This year, Nutrition International collaborated with partners to conduct five randomized controlled trials, one fortification policy assessment, seven evaluations and reviews and one survey.

This year, Nutrition International staff developed and contributed to toolkits and guidance documents, including two databases, three policy briefs, two toolkits and a survey manual with a companion toolkit and e-book. Nutrition International staff gave 19 oral presentations in international fora, contributed to 15 peer-reviewed publications and one book chapter.

## IMPACT AT A GLANCE

**589M**  
People affected by malnutrition reached with low-cost/high-impact nutrition interventions

**179M**  
Children received two doses of life-saving vitamin A

**450K**  
Metric tons of fortified staple foods produced for approximately 25M people

**440M**  
People gained access to adequately iodized salt

**19**  
New technical assistance assignments supported through NTEAM initiated in 12 countries to help governments scale up nutrition in addition to assistance assignments already completed or underway

**1.1M**  
Adolescent girls received weekly iron and folic acid supplements

**317K**  
Pregant women consumed 90+ iron and folic acid tablets

**12**  
Co-investing partners with NLIIF integrated proven nutrition interventions into existing development platforms

**383K**  
Newborns reached with birth package

**320K**  
Community health workers and facility staff trained to promote and implement nutrition interventions

## COVERAGE

The Right Start Initiative is a comprehensive program with the overall goal of improving the nutrition and health of women, adolescent girls, newborns and young children through a package of nutrition interventions. Well underway, this initiative continues to reach millions of people with birth packages, food fortification, iron and folic acid, infant and young child nutrition as well as nutrition education in nine countries across Asia and Africa.

Nutrition International is helping central and state governments in India introduce double fortified salt through social safety programs in the country, helping to reduce the prevalence of anaemia. The technique to double fortify salt with iron and iodine was developed at the University of Toronto in partnership with Nutrition International.

## LEVERAGE

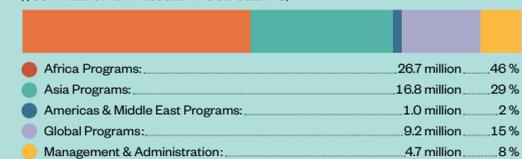
Nutrition International hosted a nutrition roundtable discussion in Tanzania, featuring a panel that included nutrition experts, academics and representatives from regional and national governments to discuss how scaling up nutrition can contribute to reaching the country's development goals.

Nutrition International provided technical and financial support to the Kenya National Micronutrient Survey which released results this year. Policymakers and program managers will use the data collected to plan and implement effective micronutrient interventions for the country.

## FINANCIAL

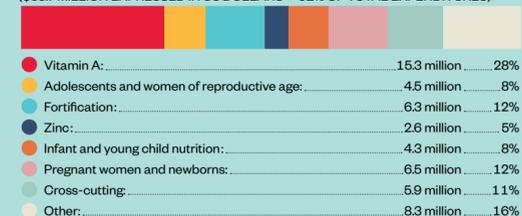
### TOTAL EXPENDITURES

(\$68.4 MILLION EXPRESSED IN US DOLLARS)



### PROGRAM EXPENDITURES BY INTERVENTION

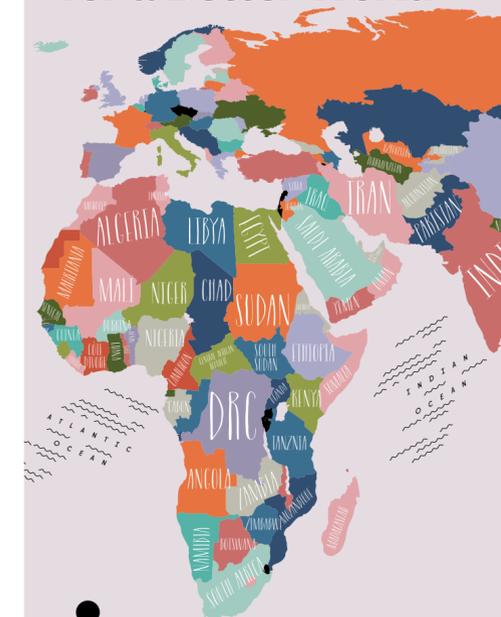
(\$63.7 MILLION EXPRESSED IN US DOLLARS • 92% OF TOTAL EXPENDITURES)



Our complete audited financial statements can be viewed at: [NutritionIntl.org/about/corporate-publications/](http://NutritionIntl.org/about/corporate-publications/)

## NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL 2017-2018 ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

# Investing in Nutrition for a Better World



Nutrition International's headquarters are in Ottawa, Canada, with regional offices in Nairobi, Kenya, and New Delhi, India, as well as 10 country offices across Africa and Asia. For more information on our work around the world, please visit [NutritionIntl.org](http://NutritionIntl.org)

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# NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL

## 2017-2018 Highlights

**Haiti** — Completed the Micronutrients for Every Meal Initiative with WFP in 420 schools in Haiti.

**USA** — Girl Powered Nutrition Programme launched with World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts at the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Through this programme, girls in Madagascar, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Tanzania will learn about the importance of nutrition.

**Vitamin A** - 179 million children reached with two doses a year in 57 countries.

**Ireland** — Supported by Irish Aid, Nutrition International is establishing community-based grain banks that are run by local women's groups in Ethiopia to support infant and young child nutrition.

**UK** — Through UKaid funding from the UK Government, NTEAM's TAN Project provided nutrition technical assistance to 12 countries with 19 new assignments this year. UKaid also provides funding for the Food Fortification Program in Pakistan.

**Pakistan** — The Food Fortification Program has so far trained 188 millers from edible oil mills, and 800 millers from wheat flour mills on fortification processes and quality assurance/quality control.

**India** — With Good Nutrition She'll Grow Into It campaign launched in India with Sophie Grégoire Trudeau and Canada's Defense Minister, the Hon. Harjit Sajjan to highlight the importance of nutrition in women and girls' empowerment.

**Bangladesh** — Shornokishoree Network Foundation and Nutrition International collaborated to raise awareness about the critical link between good nutrition and women and girls' empowerment.



### 2018-2024 Strategic Plan

First of two six-year plans initiated which define in a concrete way how Nutrition International intends to improve the nutritional status and transform the lives of 1B people living in vulnerable situations, especially women, adolescent girls and children, by 2030.

**Canada** — Canada continued to be a global leader in nutrition through its support for the work of Nutrition International and others. As part of the Whistler Declaration, Canada led G7 countries in recognizing the importance of adolescent nutrition for sustainable development, and committing to taking action to improve adolescent overall health and well-being globally.

**Teck** — Canada — Teck, Nutrition International and Global Affairs Canada continued partnership to promote the treatment of childhood diarrhoea with zinc and oral rehydration salts.

**Canada** — Partnered with the University of Saskatchewan to fortify lentils, a new food vehicle, to reduce iron deficiency at scale.

Hosted by Nutrition International, the Folate Task Team is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and was launched in early 2018 to implement a global strategy for the control of folate insufficiency and related neural tube defects.

**GAVA** — Chaired and hosted Global Alliance for Vitamin A (GAVA).

**GLOBAL BREASTFEEDING COLLECTIVE** — Actively participated in Global Breastfeeding Collective.

**NLIFT** — Launched Nutrition International's Program Gender Equality Strategy this year.

**NLIFT** — Worked with 12 co-investing partners to integrate proven nutrition interventions into existing development platforms that do not already focus on nutrition in order to reach people living in vulnerable situations, especially women and adolescent girls.

**RIGHT START** — Continued to improve the health and nutrition of women, adolescents, newborns and children in nine countries through the Right Start Initiative.

**PINKK** — **Senegal** — Supported more than 4,500 women to achieve sustainable improvements in food and nutrition security for themselves and their families. In 2017-18, 17 municipalities integrated nutrition into their local development plans.

**Argentina** — Nutrition International Knowledge Library, a global resource for nutrition scientific publications and knowledge sharing, launched at the IUNS International Congress of Nutrition - more than 85 scientific publications to date.

**Nigeria** — Reached 10 million people with Behavioural Change Initiative messages on the use of zinc and oral rehydration salts for treating diarrhoea.

**Ethiopia** — Launched Right Start Ethiopia, which will reach over 7M women, adolescent girls, newborns and children with nutrition interventions.

**Kenya** — Partnered with Amref, a leading African health NGO, to provide nutrition benefits to communities across nine countries in Africa.

**Tanzania** — Nutrition International held a session at the Government of Tanzania's first ever national adolescent health conference. Adolescent girls and boys were given a platform to speak about their dreams for the future, and the barriers malnutrition creates. The result was a unanimous statement which proposed practical solutions to improve the lives of the country's young and growing population.

**Philippines** — Government of the Philippines and Nutrition International brought the Philippines Plan of Action for Nutrition to Local Government Units for leadership and action on nutrition.

**Indonesia** — Partnered with Girl Effect to deliver relevant nutrition content to up to 4.8M Indonesian girls through the Springster mobile platform.

**Australian AID** — **Australia** — Supported Nutrition International's MITRA and MITRA Youth programs to improve the nutritional status of women, children, and adolescent girls in Indonesia.

**Core Countries** — Nutrition International works in every corner of the world, with country offices in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines, regional offices in Kenya and India, and its headquarters in Ottawa, Canada.

- Bangladesh
- Canada Headquarters
- Ethiopia
- India
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Nigeria
- Philippines
- Pakistan
- Senegal
- Tanzania

**Legend**

- Nutrition International country offices (10 countries)
- Nutrition technical assistance (14 countries)
- Vitamin A supplementation (57 countries)

0 2000 4000 km

In Nutrition International's core countries, a combination of these interventions were implemented this year:

- vitamin A supplementation;
- salt iodization;
- food fortification;
- zinc and oral rehydration salts for treatment of diarrhoea;
- iron and folic acid (IFA) supplements for pregnant women;
- weekly IFA for adolescents;
- nutrition education;
- infant and young child nutrition;
- and birth package (including Kangaroo Mother Care, Early Initiation of Breastfeeding).