

# NUTRITION: An Investment in Growth

The foundation for a healthy and productive life is established in the 1,000 days between pregnancy and age two. A focus on nutrition during this critical window of opportunity has proven to yield a high return on investment. By investing in early nutrition, we are able to prevent irreversible conditions and diseases that contribute to both high rates of child mortality and the broader global disease burden—which in turn impact the social and economic stability and prospects of communities and nations.

## Countries are Investing in Nutrition

To date, 26 developing countries have committed to scaling up nutrition. Leaders are prioritizing nutrition as an investment in their people's growth and recognizing it as an investment in economic and social development and the strength of their nations. These countries expect to see results within the next five years.

## A Global Movement

To support national leadership, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement was launched in 2010. Focused on improving nutrition during the 1,000 day window of opportunity, SUN is a global push for action and investment. SUN is not a new initiative, institution or fund; instead, it is a movement to increase the effectiveness of existing programs by supporting national priorities, encouraging alignment of resources and fostering broad ownership and commitment to nutrition.

## Creating Sustainable Change Through Partnerships

A wide range of development partners, civil society, UN agencies, businesses and governments dedicated to creating sustainable improvements in nutrition are coordinating and aligning resources in support of priority in-country actions. The United Nations Secretary-General is a champion for the SUN Movement, establishing a Lead Group to provide strategic oversight, mobilize resources and ensure collective accountability.

## Synergy: The Impact of All is Greater than the Sum of the Parts

SUN relies on the experience and expertise of the more than 100 organizations and entities supporting the movement. With an emphasis on the 1,000 day window of opportunity, SUN partners focus on implementing both solutions that directly improve nutrition, such as support for breastfeeding or ensuring access to essential vitamins and minerals, as well as efforts that have a broader influence on nutrition, such as improving farming practices to increase the availability of nutrient-rich crops.

There are numerous factors that influence nutritional status—creating numerous opportunities to intervene and shape improvements. By integrating solutions across sectors, SUN seeks to create sustainable change that no one program, organization or government could achieve alone.

## Looking Ahead to Promising Futures

The SUN Movement and the momentum behind it continue to grow. By working together, SUN countries and their partners are not only improving nutrition for women and children, but also giving families, communities and nations an opportunity to grow healthier, stronger and more secure.

## Scaling Up Nutrition

### Nutrition is the smartest investment

- Good nutrition helps children grow and helps economies grow. Reducing malnutrition supports nations seeking to break the cycle of poverty. It has been estimated that investing in nutrition can increase a country's GDP by at least 2-3 percent annually.
- Improving nutrition is a precondition to achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including eradicating poverty and hunger, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating disease, empowering women and achieving universal primary education.

For more information or to get involved with SUN visit [www.ScalingUpNutrition.org](http://www.ScalingUpNutrition.org)