Even when people have enough food to survive, the nutritional value of their food varies widely—it may contain enough calories, but often lacks crucial vitamins and minerals causing devastating long-term mental, physical, and economic consequences. This is called hidden hunger.

HIDDEN HUNGER REALITIES

Malnutrition in early childhood has serious, long-term consequences because it impedes physical and mental development. Malnourished children are less likely to perform well in school and more likely to grow into malnourished adults who are at greater risk of disease and death.

A DANGER TO MOTHERS & CHILDREN

Due to malnutrition, 36 infants are born every minute with impaired mental capacity.

In the 1,000 days between pregnancy and her child’s second birthday, damage to that child’s development is largely irreversible.

The world’s greatest solvable problem

According to the Copenhagen Consensus, one of the most compelling investments is to get nutrients to the world’s undernourished. If we work together to eliminate hidden hunger we can:

Boost GDP by 11% in Africa and Asia

Prevent more than 45% of child deaths every year

Give children a brighter future

Breaking the cycle: Food fortification is one of the simplest and most cost effective ways to improve nutrition. Working with the World Food Programme (WFP), DSM is developing fortified staple foods that can help meet the nutritional needs of children and mothers. To date, approximately 15 million vulnerable people have benefitted from new and improved products developed in the WFP-DSM partnership.

NUTRITION BREAKDOWN

4 COMMON DEFICIENCIES

Iron Deficiency

the most widespread nutritional disorder in the world impairing mental development in young children, lowering national IQs and undermining adult productivity, with estimated losses of 2 per cent of GDP in the worst-affected countries.

Vitamin A Deficiency

compromises the immune systems and is the biggest cause of preventable blindness in childhood.

Iodine Deficiency

during pregnancy has serious consequences for the mental development of the unborn child.

Folate Deficiency

causes approximately 300,000—400,000 severe birth defects every year and is associated with roughly 1 in 10 adult deaths from heart disease.

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