Creating The Enabling Environment For Nutrition Governance
Andrew Chinguwo, VALID Nutrition
Valid Nutrition’s Vision and Mission

**Vision:** VALID Nutrition believe that market based solutions, which create and nurture consumer demand for good nutrition in low-income populations, are the key to ending global malnutrition. This entails a significant change from the traditional aid and supply driven model.

**Mission:** Drive the changes needed to make effective affordable nutrition available at scale, through market based mechanisms.

**ACUTE Malnutrition**
- Develop and “shape” the global market for RUF appropriately and design alternative new recipes for such innovative foods through evidence based R&D.

**CHRONIC Malnutrition**
- Help to “Unlock” a completely new market for appealing, affordable effective nutrition products that prevent stunting (the first 1,000 days).
Valid Nutrition Company Overview

Designs, manufactures and markets nutritional foods for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition in developing countries

Factory based in Lilongwe (Malawi), employing 35 employees

Registered in Ireland in 2008 - company limited by guarantee with registered charity status (Ireland, UK & USA)

Sister company of **VALID International** – focusses on leading-edge research and implementation of evidence-based techniques to improve the quality, impact and accountability of humanitarian assistance. It has operated in over 35 countries globally
Challenges: Malnutrition – A global need
In 2014, 50 million (~7.5%) children under 5 out of 667 million in the world were moderately acutely malnourished.

**Current situation**
- Africa: 68%
- Asia: 28%
- Rest of the world: 4%

**Consequences**
- Increased morbidity and mortality
  - Children with MAM are 3-4 times more likely to die than well-nourished ones
- Impaired intellectual development
- Increased risk of disease in adulthood
- Suboptimal work capacity when adults

Some Statistics on Hunger

- Some 795 million people in the world do not have enough food to lead a health and active life. That’s about one in nine people on earth.
- The vast majority of the world’s hungry people live in developing countries, where 12.9% of the population is undernourished.
- Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45%) of deaths in children under five – 3.1 million children each year.
- One out of six children -- roughly 100 million -- in developing countries is underweight.
- One in four of the world's children are stunted. In developing countries the proportion can rise to one in three.

Source: State of Food Insecurity in the World, FAO, 2015
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Source: Global health Observatory, WHO, 2012
Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM)

- Empowers mothers
- First hand evidence of benefits of nutrition
- Word of mouth effect
The Role of Private Sector – necessary?

- Supply by global humanitarian organisations has big challenges:
  - Complex supply chains for emergency operations and country programmes
  - Many considerations—specific food requirements, food safety, availability of local solutions specific to the needs of a given community.
- Necessity recognised by humanitarian organisations - WFP working with private sector partners:
  - Collaboration with DSM to develop new products for specific needs
  - Partnering with Kemin on shelf life and safety of specialised food products
  - Collaborating with **Valid Nutrition** in developing and improved 20g LNS-SQ that would optimise nutrient delivery for chronic malnutrition.

Source: WFP (July 2015)
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<th>Enabling Environment for Sustainability: Valid Nutrition’s Soya-Maize-Sorghum RUSF (Alternative Recipes Case Study)</th>
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| • Milk-free (reduced cost)  
• peanut free (lower aflatoxin risks) |
| **Proven acceptability and safety** |
| • Evidence from trials in Malawi and DRC |
| **Cheaper locally sourced ingredients** |
| • Widely grown & consumed in Africa  
• Multiplier effect on local value chain & economy |
| **Adequate nutrient profile** |
| • Improved protein digestibility & bioavailability  
• Better increase in haemoglobin |
| **Satisfy SPHERE standards** |
| • Satisfy the 75% recovery rate as set by SPHERE standards for children aged 6-59 months |
| **Larger available budget for WFP** |
| • A saving of 15% on current cost of RUSF globally would be worth $15m per annum |
| **Potential for reinvestment** |
| • Savings can be invested in additional interventions so that an equivalent amount of additional children can benefit |
Role of Private Sector – way forward

Realistically, the way to address this urgent and global need is with Private Sector involvement. The scale of the problem – 20m more children SAM, 100m underweight, and 250m suffering from chronic malnutrition - is so great.

Public sector/NGO/humanitarian provision of products is never going to happen - it has to be through a market based mechanism that capitalises on the expertise of the private sector.
The Role of Nutrition Governance

Describes the strengths and weaknesses of various aspects of nutrition activities at national level, covering:

- Inter-sectoral mechanism to address nutrition;
- Nutrition strategic plan;
- National nutritional policy;
- Dietary guidelines;
- Budget for implementation of the national nutrition plan,
- Monitoring and surveillance;
- Existence of a nutrition component in the health budget

Having a nutrition policy is one of the components to make strong nutrition governance, but it is not enough, and cannot act alone.

Nutrition Governance - Malawi

Valid Nutrition has a factory in Malawi

A draft National Nutritional Policy (NNP) 2016-2020 has the following background:

- Some improvement during the previous policy (NNP 2007-2012) - evidence of reduction in stunting, wasting, underweight, and micronutrient deficiencies
- Malnutrition rates still high – more concerted efforts required
- New NNP focus:
  - Scale up of evidence based innovative interventions
  - Realign nutrition interventions to the Malawi Growth Development Agenda, the SUN movement, World Health Assembly targets, and The Sustainable Development Goals
  - Private investment in the production, processing and marketing of high-quality nutritional foods including complementary food.
Nutrition Governance - Valid Nutrition in Malawi

Valid Nutrition – private sector player in Malawi investing in R&D on nutritional products aiming to generate evidence on **efficacy, cost effectiveness and local production** to drive local economy.

- Valid Nutrition uses locally available ingredients where possible as a vehicle for expanding market for local producers
- With the help of a grant from **USAID** Valid Nutrition Malawi will shortly begin production of *Ready to Use Complimentary Food* for treatment of chronic malnutrition
- On-going clinical study on Soybean-maize-sorghum RUTF
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Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy Global Learning and Evidence Exchange  
East and Southern Africa Regional Meeting
1,000 Days – and Every Day Counts

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