## LATEST IN THE FIELD: HIGHER DAIRY CONTENT RESULTS IN IMPROVED PHYSICAL OUTCOMES

Presented by Nina Schlossman, PhD President of Global Food & Nutrition, Inc. USADEC Boise, Idaho May 11, 2017

#### Logistics, Implementation & Local Research Team





Project Design, Research, Analysis, Training & Quality Assurance

Ministries of **Education & Health Institutional Review** Board Village Elders & CHW Pre & Primary School Directors, Teachers, Parents, PTAs& PARTICIAPANTS Real CHALLENGE Supplement Producer & Supplier

# **GUINEA-BISSAU**

- A small country in West Africa
- 11<sup>th</sup> poorest in the World
- Economy mainly cashew farming, fishing
- Foods grown for family consumption:
  - Rice (the staple food)
  - Millet
  - Cashews, groundnuts
  - Sweet potatoes
  - Mangos
  - Domestic animals (much less frequently)
- No local large scale research capacity

## FIRST LARGE SCALE NUTRITION RESEARCH IN 8,000+

#### **3 RUSF effectiveness trials + 2 additional pilots**

### Nutrition Info from womb to adulthood



# VILAGE MOTHERS, INFANTS & GHILDREN



# THE SUPPLEMENTS

- WFP-style RUSF with either 15% or 33% of protein from dairy made by Challenge Dairy
- Vitamins and minerals to meet recommendations at the time of production (4-8 year olds)
- Highly palatable ready-to-use formulation
- Two identical products differing only in percent of protein provided by dairy (15% or 33%)
- Micronutrient profile met WFP guidelines at time of production (standard of care for MAM)



#### CHANGES IN ANTHROPOMETRY & METABOLIC HEALTH OF VILLAGE MOTHERS



Mothers randomized to receive RUSF-33% had an increase in MUAC compared to controls (P= .03)





Measuring height, weight, mid-upper arm circumference of village mothers for baseline and endline results

Supplements with higher content of dairy protein improve nutritional status of mothers; a proxy for affecting children in the households and their dietary habits

#### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHANGE IN INFANT, CHILD & MOTHER ANTHROPOMETRY DURING SUPPLEMENTATION



Control
+ 15% RUSF
• 33% RUSF

# **VILLAGE RESULTS**

• Mothers:

> Higher dairy supplements (RUSF-33%) improve nutritional status

• Infants/Toddlers & Children (6-59 months):

> HAZ/WAZ increased substantially with both supplements

• Children (24-59 months):

Catch-up growth in all children given RUSF 15% and 33%

> Only children who had low WAZ in control at baseline had some catch-up growth (traditional MAM remedy)

> Additional benefit of RUSF-33% - significantly increased MUAC

Infants/Toddlers (6-23 months):

> Supplementation resulted in improved growth *unrelated to nutritional status of family* 

• Mother-Child Dyad: Response to supplements sheds light on family food dynamics

#### HIGHER DAIRY RUSF - SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT IN MOTHERS & CHILDREN (24-59 MONTHS)

SUCCESS IN OLDER CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH IMPROVED MATERNAL NUTRITION -- MORE DEPENDENT ON FAMILY DIET AND NUTRITION SITUATION --



## Anthropometry of Preschoolers Pre/Post $\Delta$



- Second school meal helps all preschoolers broadly
- Additional MUAC benefit in RUSF with 33% protein from dairy
  - Significant decrease in control





# PRESCHOOL SUMMARY

- Children in preschools have low mean Z scores but not as low a those in primary school
- Both supplements had significant effect on increasing weight in preschool children who were not the most malnourished
- 33% supplement had additional benefit of increasing lean body mass (muscle)





## **BASELINE DEMOGRAPHICS**



### GUINEA-BISSAU SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE MULTIPLE PROBLEMS THAT IMPACT LEARNING

#### Including stunting, increasingly prevalent with increasing age



# RESULTS

### VILLAGE

- Mothers: Higher dairy RUSFs had significant benefit gained lean body mass (MUAC)
- Infants: Both supplement levels increased Hb levels from baseline to 3 months, improved WAZ, HAZ
- Children: Both supplement levels increased Hb levels from baseline to 3 months

### **SCHOOLS**

**Preschool:** 33% supplement had additional benefit of increasing MUAC

 WHZ, MUAC decreased in controls indicates worsening nutrition status not seen in supplemented children

**Primary:** Widespread malnutrition, anemia, wasting documented CONSISTENT PATTERN EMERGING FROM MFFAPP STUDIES IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES



## **IMPORTANCE OF DAIRY PROTEIN IN DIET**

- Higher dairy protein RUSFs have potential to achieve broad benefits
- Higher levels of dairy can successfully prevent MAM in children <2 independent of family food dynamics
- Nutrition of children >2 is significantly tied to family food dynamics therefore making tailored nutrition education essential for this age group and their families
- The relationship of mother's nutritional status can be proxy for household food security
  - Understanding intra-household dynamics without having to do full on household food consumption study



#### **FOOD-BASED SOLUTIONS ARE CRITICAL OVER THE LONG-TERM**

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## ... PRODUCTS

#### DAIRY AND ANIMAL PROTEIN KEY AT CRITICAL TIMES OF DEVELOPMENT

- Nutritional Products need to be optimized for long term health and wellness throughout life
  - Focus on protein quality and micronutrient density, appropriate to life stage
- Family of products with 33% or more dairy protein for first 1,000 days and beyond (RUTF with 50% dairy for SAM)
  - INFANTS (6-23 mo.) breast milk, complementary foods (Fortified Blended Foods), RUSF as needed CHILDREN (24-59 mo.) RUSF, higher dairy/animal protein important, household dietary diversity, density improved preschool meals/supplements with nutrients for cognitive/brain, physical development
  - YOUTH (5-19 years) specialized RUSF household dietary diversity, focus on fruits and vegetables, micronutrients/iron supplementation, improved school meal
  - WOMEN (of reproductive age, PLW) specialized RUSF, higher dairy protein, supplemented with MAM children, focus on micronutrients/iron and folate (more savory options for adults)

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## ... PROGRAMS & PEOPLE

### Next Generation OF Products To Integrate With Local Food Systems

- Farm and Pharma next generation of products must be integrated with local foodbased solutions and behavior change
  - Consumer-based approaches; nutrition sensitive solutions; ag and health systems
- Stimulate Local Economy: Products made locally with native ingredients to fit into local tastes and food preferences
  - Dairy ingredients needed in first stage Role for US Dairy industry
- Make Use of Many Platforms: Incorporate approaches into NGO/community/PTA/school platforms
  - Ensure local and national ownership; engage stakeholders to focus on first 1,000 days and beyond
  - Focus on early child development reaching preschoolers with more robust supplements, second meals at ECD/daycare/preschools
    - higher protein from dairy (macronutrients: protein, energy, fat)
  - Focus on micronutrients in primary schools iron, other measures to fight anemia

## Prevention & Intervention

IRON, OTHER MICRONUTRIENTS CRITICAL





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