

# VALID NUTRITION Supporter Newsletter

Issue 9

May 2013



## Welcome to our latest Newsletter

**This edition is aimed at providing our supporters with an update on recent progress and developments; together with an outline of future plans.**



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## RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

**SMS-RUTF PROJECT:** This exciting project (generously funded by **Irish Aid** and **PRANA Foundation**) involves a potentially “game changing”, new generation, Soya Maize Sorghum (SMS) based Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). Following extensive recipe optimisation work, product was delivered to the study site in DR Congo in December 2012, and a new Efficacy Trial commenced on 3rd January, 2013. Initial results will be available later in the year and we are confident that they will verify the effectiveness of the improvements on the formulation, hopefully ultimately providing the evidence required for global approval of this ground-breaking product.

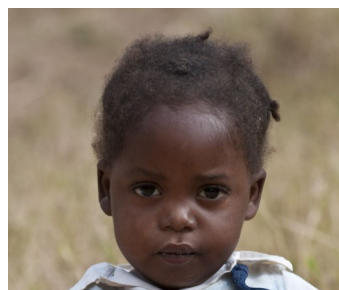


**Smallholder Farmers Project:** This important scientific and evidence-based project continues into its third year, in collaboration with **University College Cork** and funded by **Irish Aid**. The aim is to identify the impact of purchasing indigenous/local ingredients for use in the manufacture of RUTF products, on the incomes of smallholder farmers and their families. To date, the evidence is showing that if farmers are properly supported (in terms of know-how and business finance), that local production has numerous benefits for smallholder farmers and their wider communities.



**Chickpea RUSF Project:** Funded by **PepsiCo**, as part of their EthioPEA initiative in association with the World Food Programme (WFP) and USAID, Valid has developed a Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) based on Chickpea and Sesame (CS- RUSF). An Acceptability Trial has just been successfully completed in partnership with Jimma University, in Ethiopia, and the data is currently being written up.

We are confident that this formulation will offer a significant cost advantage over existing products, in the prevention and treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).



**Valid's R&D Office:** Our R&D office in Nairobi continues to support the **Medical Research Council**, with supplies of nutritional supplements for inclusion in a clinical trial entitled “*REALITY – Reduction of EARly MortALITY in HIV-infected adults and children starting antiretroviral therapy*”. The first round of supplies for the Study, based across four African countries, is currently underway.

Five formulations for their ENID (*Early Nutrition and Immune Development*) trials in the Gambia have also been supplied by the local Team. The last round of supplies for these trials, is currently in progress, and will be delivered in the coming months.



## COUNTRY UPDATES

**MALAWI:** While we continue to face many challenges in terms of adequately financing the local factory in Malawi, we are currently in discussions with a potential business partner (separately, and in parallel to our overall investment plan), who would be an ideal fit to support our social impact business model. Further information will be provided shortly.

**DFID** made a visit to the VN Factory in Malawi back in January. As keen supporters of local agriculture and the groundnut sector, we are delighted to announce that DFID subsequently confirmed that they will generously provide grant funding to assist us in scaling up production locally to meet demand.



**INDIA:** The news continues to be positive from India, where sound progress is now being made – including the imminent commencement of pilot programmes for Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) in three States – Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar - using Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). Funding for the Programmes is being provided by **DFID** under its global grant to Maximise the Quality of **Scaling-up Nutrition** (SUN) Initiative, administered by the Seattle-based not-for-profit agency **PATH**.



Given that approximately 40% of the world's children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) are located in India, the potential opportunity to provide unparalleled impact on the problem of SAM is immense.

**KENYA:** Plans to re-enter the Kenyan market are progressing – albeit slower than we would have liked.

Negotiations are continuing with a major local food producer. We are hopeful that we will be able to provide further information on our plans very soon.



**ETHIOPIA:** We are delighted to confirm that **Kissito Nutrition Relief**, a Division of Kissito Healthcare, has reached an agreement with the owner of VALSEK. We are confident that together they will start to commission the factory in Addis Ababa very soon. This means that we will finally be able to start supplying **Valid Nutrition** Ready-to-Use Foods onto the local market.



## CONTEMPORARY ART AUCTION

We are delighted to announce that the planned Contemporary Art auction, in aid of Valid Nutrition, and kindly organised through Christie's London, will go ahead on **26th June 2013** at Christie's, London, as part of their Day Sale. This prestigious event will include works gifted to Valid Nutrition by art galleries, collectors, and established artists, such as Antony Gormley, Albert Oehlen and Thomas Houseago; and is not to be missed if you are interested in contemporary art or, indeed, a VN supporter!



If you would like to receive further information nearer the time, please contact Ciara O'Brien: [ciaraobrien@validnutrition.org](mailto:ciaraobrien@validnutrition.org) or Cristian Albu: [calbu@christies.com](mailto:calbu@christies.com)