



VALID develops highly effective and innovative ready-to-use food products to address malnutrition.



Amino-acid enhanced, **plant-based formula.**

Lower cost and adaptable to alternate product formulations.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF 2021

*"We exist purely to pursue our vision and mission,
not to grow for the sake of perpetuating our existence."*

Dr. Steve Collins, MBE - Founder & Director

Introduction and Governance Structure

Welcome to VALID Nutrition's Annual Review 2021. The purpose of this document is to provide our supporters and the general public with a candid review of VALID Nutrition's activities and developments during 2021, including an overview of our plans for the year ahead. **VALID Nutrition** is a "not for profit" company, limited by guarantee and incorporated in Ireland. As such, it has no shareholders and cannot disperse profits outside of the business. It is a registered Irish, UK and US public charity, but operates a distinctive social impact business model that incorporates a special dispensation from the Irish Revenue Authorities allowing it to trade. Five of the seven Irish Members (Trustees), four of whom form the Board of Directors, actively govern the company. The Board is chaired by company founder, Dr. Steve Collins (a Medical Doctor and also holding a PhD in Nutrition, Steve is an internationally recognized expert in humanitarian nutrition interventions, as well as a widely published and respected academic); and includes Howard Dalzell (former Director of Policy at Concern Worldwide), Dr. Hans-Jürgen Koch, (former CEO of Deutsche Bank (Suisse) SA) and Caroline Keeling (Chief Executive of Keelings). The Company Secretary is Claire Collins, (wife of Steve Collins and former development worker with Concern Worldwide). VALID Nutrition's small management team report to the Board through their Chief Executive, Paul Murphy (former Chief Executive of Unilever Ireland) who acts in a voluntary capacity. Our lean structure is designed to harness modern technology and progressive work practices, thereby reducing costs and enabling smarter, more efficient work methods.

- **Auditors (IRE & UK):** Grant Thornton, 13-18 City Quay, Dublin 2; Azets, 5-7 Beatrice St, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 1QE.
- **Banking Services:** Allied Irish Bank (Irl) and Barclays (UK).
- **Head Office:** Derry Duff, Bantry, Co. Cork, P75 PD60, Ireland – "virtual office".
- **Charity Registration Numbers (IRE, UK, USA):** 20065737, 1141922, 990366981.
- **No. of Employees:** 3.
- **Turnover:** €163,584 (for year ending 31st March 2021, our financial year).

Ending Malnutrition

The hugely damaging impact of Covid-19 further highlights the extent of meaningful public-private partnerships that are required if we are to really embrace and achieve the opportunity of ending malnutrition in our life-times. This prospect has never been more feasible and yet **ACUTE Malnutrition** continues to affect over 45 million children globally and is responsible for between 1-2 million childhood deaths each year. Acute Malnutrition is divided into **Severe** and **Moderate** forms, treated by Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) and Ready-to-Use Supplementary Foods (RUSF), respectively. Both forms of acute malnutrition are treatable. **The challenge** is to extend treatment to all those who need it by improving access through reducing cost, innovating and encouraging competition.

CHRONIC Malnutrition, which leads to "stunting" is caused by a prolonged diet deficient in key essential nutrients and affects 149 million children in developing countries – equating to approximately one third of all children in these locations. Since 2000, stunting among children in Africa has decreased in percentage terms from 38.3% to 30.3%, yet due to population growth, the actual numbers of children stunted has risen. These children are denied the opportunity to ever reach their full human potential – both mentally and physically. **The challenge** is to extend nutritional awareness to mothers and local communities, coupled with the creation of new markets to provide access to appealing, affordable and effective nutritional products for low-income consumers. Currently the market does not provide such choices. The reason that market force matters here is that free provision of suitable products at the scale required is never going to be feasible in a context where governments, UN Agencies and other NGOs cannot even afford to treat the relatively smaller number of starving children alone.

A solution is possible and the prize is absolutely enormous, not just for the children concerned, but also their societies and the global economy. By changing mind-sets and regarding malnourished children as autonomous individuals and de-facto "customers" (through creating infrastructure for affordable nutritional choices) rather than as beneficiaries, and by empowering mothers using an innovative evidence-based approach, VALID aims to unleash a significant change in how this problem is addressed – and in so doing, be a catalyst for an enterprise driven and sustainable solution to malnutrition.

Our VISION is that market-based solutions, which create and nurture consumer demand for good nutrition are the key to ending global malnutrition – and driving sustainable, economic growth in the countries concerned.

Childhood malnutrition is the most important cause of global poverty, underdevelopment and child mortality in the world today (ref: The World Bank/WHO). **The global consensus is that preventing malnutrition has the highest return on investment of all development interventions.** At the individual level, preventing malnutrition leads to massive increases in adult earning and educational potential. At the macro level, it increases GDP in affected countries by an average of 2-3% and by up to 10% in high burden countries. The Third Copenhagen Consensus confirmed that childhood malnutrition is the most critical and economically sound intervention.

VALID Nutrition's MISSION is to make the choice of effective, affordable and appealing nutrition available to consumers in developing countries – at scale.

VALID Nutrition - Market Operations

Malawi – the end of an era, but much achieved.



By 2021, and despite operating for over a decade from an adapted warehouse facility that was set up by the Charity with such limited working capital, VALID had managed to cultivate a very successful ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTFs) manufacturing business in Malawi for the treatment of **Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)**. As well as directly supporting local employment and food value chains, the Charity also utilised the factory to produce the alternative RUTF product required for our research programme. This is an innovative plant-based (**Soya, Maize and Sorghum**) **RUTF recipe** to provide a much more cost effective, locally sourced, non-milk-based treatment option. The first two trials (in Zambia and DRC) were only partially successful, but the third clinical efficacy trial in Malawi in 2016, brought about a **significant breakthrough**. This work (undertaken in research partnership with **Ajinomoto Co. Inc.**) resulted in the publication of several scientific papers, not least a scientific Paper on the trial and outcome in August 2017 in the prestigious *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. The results clearly showed that the locally sourced, plant-based recipe was not only as good as the standard WHO recommended milk-based recipe in treating starvation, but was in addition **superior in treating iron deficiency**, a serious condition that occurs in more than 50% of cases, and all at much lower cost.

Resulting from these achievements and by the end of 2019, the VALID Nutrition Charity had successfully fundraised a combined USD\$1 million in grant funding (supported by the Irish Government's **Africa Agri-Food Development Programme (AADP)** – involving **Irish Aid** and the **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**), **tcc Foundation** in the UK, and **Concern Worldwide**), in parallel with USD\$1.35 million in debt funding (in collaboration with a local investor, **AgDevCo**), to create a new purpose built, state-of-the-art RUTF manufacturing facility. We spent considerable time preparing the plans for construction of the new factory. Despite such exciting developments, the Covid-19 pandemic proved detrimental to VALID's grant and subsequently debt funding arrangements, and the VALID Board was forced in May 2021 to make the very difficult decision to abandon our plans in Malawi, and to undertake the orderly wind-down of our social impact business.

Even with very modest beginnings, and since establishment, VALID Nutrition Malawi produced almost **50 million sachets** of ready-to-use therapeutic food. This figure represents sufficient product to treat over **355,000 children** with **severe acute malnutrition**. Crucially, and with support from customers such as **UNICEF** and **WFP**, these figures represent local production which up until decommissioning, had nearly eliminated the need for any ready-to-use therapeutic food to be imported into Malawi from Europe or the USA. This is a significant fact given that approximately 50% of the market is currently supplied from offshore. Furthermore, VALID's operation in Malawi has served to assist local farmers and suppliers as well as providing employment and skills transfer. All this has had, a hugely beneficial multiplier effect on the local economy.

In terms of next steps, the VALID Nutrition Charity will continue with our progressive, **evidence-based** work to develop and reform the market so that choice, competition and therefore the provision of RUTF are enhanced - and many more children can be treated. Our focus on our amino-acid enhanced, plant-based food technology will now intensify and remains core to this effort, as does the **better integration of treatment with prevention**. Given the increased need and thus opportunity that **Covid-19** has placed at our door, we are **seeking to identify an established strategic partner** who can help to realise and deploy the potential of the new plant-based food technology by making it available to support pregnant and lactating women in the first instance, through broader retail and direct to consumer channels. In parallel, we intend working towards removing the barriers unnecessarily and unscientifically created by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, so that this, and other plant-based efficacious and more cost effective recipes can be used globally. The adoption of VALID's new recipe alone would help to transform the market and to ultimately save the lives of tens of thousands of additional children who are currently left **untreated due to cost restrictions**.

Research and Development

A breakthrough, amino-acid enhanced, plant-based (Soya, Maize, Sorghum) RUTF

In 2020 globally, 13.6 million children under 5 suffered from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) according to UNICEF. The WHO recommended method of treating SAM is the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) model developed by VALID, which involves provision of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to the patients. Even before the impact of Covid-19, less than 15% of SAM cases globally were being reached, leaving millions of children with a greatly increased risk of death. **A significant contributing factor to the low coverage is the high cost of RUTF.** To reduce cost and improve coverage, developing alternative lower cost recipes that are at least as efficacious in treating SAM as the existing standard milk-peanut based RUTF formulation, is essential.

VALID Nutrition has undertaken 15 years of research to develop an effective, locally sourced, non-milk based recipe. During this period, it has **completed three clinical (efficacy) trials** involving an innovative **Soya, Maize and Sorghum (SMS)** based RUTF recipe. In research partnership with **Ajinomoto Co. Inc.**, and together with funding support from the **Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** and the **Global Innovation Fund (GIF)**, a new generation version of the plant-based recipe was developed using innovative techniques and Ajinomoto's amino acid and food science technology, to optimise the formulation. A clinical efficacy trial was successfully completed in 2016 in Malawi, and a scientific Paper on the trial and outcome was published in August 2017 by the prestigious *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

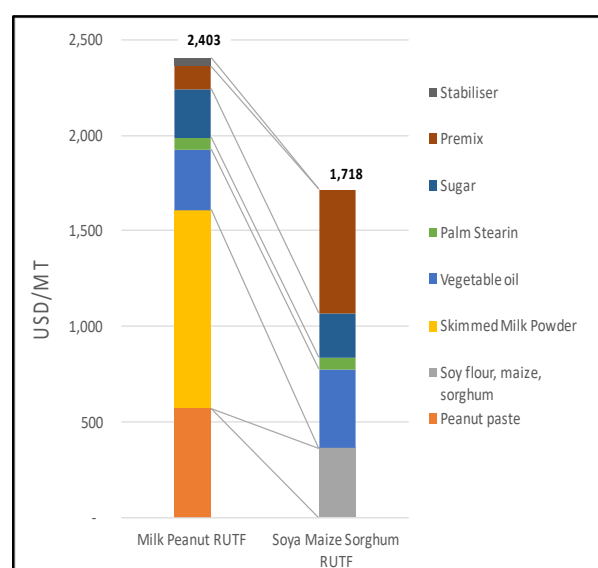
The outcome represents a breakthrough. **For the first time since RUTF was developed, we have a lower cost, plant-based product that is as efficacious as the sole standard recipe.** Containing locally sourced ingredients (97%) and with demonstrated superiority in treating anaemia, and in the replenishment of body iron stores, this is a transformational development for the international RUTF market; and most importantly, for children affected by SAM.

In summary, Soya, Maize, Sorghum (SMS)-RUTF:

- Is **as efficacious** as the standard milk peanut RUTF recipe in treating SAM.
- **Costs substantially less**, allowing more children to be treated within existing donor budgets - with ingredient costs in developing countries expected to be 20~30% lower, depending on prevailing market prices (see graph above).
- Is **superior** to the standard milk peanut RUTF in **treating anaemia and replenishing body iron stores** – a highly significant benefit, both for SAM and for application in improved supplementary foods, especially for the critically important group of pregnant and lactating women.
- Is **easier to manufacture in developing countries**, with the base ingredients grown locally, and avoiding the need to import expensive milk powder. This will make local manufacturers more competitive.
- Has a **superior environmental profile with sustainability benefits** from the use of cereals rather than animal sourced ingredients. Additionally, manufacture in programmatic countries reduces the carbon footprint associated with supply from offshore.



Recipe Cost Comparison – Estimate (Malawi)



- Contains **10% less sugar** than the original standard RUTF recipe.
- Overcomes **lactose intolerance** and **nut allergy** in children.

The Issue – a flawed WHO review:

In April 2021, the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** published the findings of their review of the **Guideline on the dairy protein content in ready-to-use therapeutic foods for treatment of uncomplicated severe acute malnutrition**. However, and **contrary to scientific fact**, the review has maintained the requirement that **at least 50% of the protein in RUTF must come from dairy sources**. This outcome directly contradicts a FAO published review of protein in RUTF in 2018¹, and that correctly concluded that the fundamental issue is protein **quality** – not protein **source**. The WHO Guideline also contradicts the recently updated CODEX Standard whereby a protein digestibility-corrected amino acid score (PDCAAS) has been adopted by FAO/WHO as the preferred method for the measurement of the protein value in human nutrition.

This issue of **protein quality rather than source** is critical from a **cost and coverage perspective**, as even in a pre-Covid context, less than 15% of children requiring treatment were being reached. It is also critically important as in most African countries where SAM is common (all Sub-Saharan countries), milk powder is not readily available and must be imported at high financial cost to local manufacturers, in addition to the significant cost to the environment and foregoing the longer-term developmental benefits of local manufacturing to local economies. By contrast, manufacturing RUTF in Africa from locally grown pulses and grains not only reduces costs and carbon footprint, but also conveys the broader development benefits that strengthen food value chains and thus sustain local resilience.

During the WHO Review process, irrelevant secondary cost-effectiveness information was provided and thus confusion within the Guideline Development Group arose around the actual cost effectiveness of the amino acid enhanced, plant-based Soya, Maize, Sorghum RUTF (SMS-RUTF) which has been demonstrated to be as efficacious as the standard milk peanut RUTF in promoting recovery from SAM, and superior at treating anaemia and iron deficiency. This new and advanced recipe was pioneered by VALID Nutrition – **a publicly registered Irish/UK charity** - and largely through the expertise and voluntary efforts of our Founder, Dr Steve Collins, MBE². Notwithstanding this and the WHO's own terms of reference around equity, economic value/impact, sustainability and in particular, product cost and the coverage that it directly affects (a primary SPHERE indicator for SAM treatment); **the VALID Charity was not consulted as part of the information gathering and review process**. This is despite the fact that Dr Collins is a medical doctor with decades of field expertise in Africa; a distinguished and widely published researcher within the acute malnutrition arena; and that the Irish/UK Charity is the only organisation with direct experience of manufacturing both the standard milk peanut recipe and the new amino-acid enhanced, plant-based recipe.

Furthermore, the WHO process **pooled the data** from VALID's successful large Randomised Control Trial (RCT) on our amino-acid enhanced Soy Maize and Sorghum RUTF, with data from previous trials that we undertook on non-amino-acid enhanced prototype recipes during the recipe development process and that had already been rejected. This ludicrous and **completely flawed methodology** means that the more involved the R&D process and the more recipe development that is undertaken to succeed, the more the result of the meta-analysis will be biased against the final successful recipe! It is a seriously defective and incompetent approach.

Despite this and other significant flaws within the process³, the WHO's Guideline on protein remains in place and **continues to block all plant-based formulations** (not just VALID's). Astonishingly, this is not being questioned, despite the mess that was the WHO Guideline Review of RUTF and the unjustified protein source stipulation. Indeed, the WHO Review has demonstrated exactly why a voluntary driven and thus properly impartial entity like VALID Nutrition is needed – now more than ever. Due to the **often-conflicting interests of donor funding**, no other entity is absorbed with representing the needs of the consumer in this market – the children who are starving and deserve so much better. Nor is anyone else challenging the comfortable status quo. Less than 15% of children who need treatment are being reached. After 20 years, competition remains limited, there is no recipe choice and innovation remains blocked. Those in a position to permit and facilitate reform, are **strong on rhetoric around the need for more donor funding but are doing nothing whatsoever to drive the sort of change that is needed or providing any evidence of what they will do differently**. Consequently, private sector investors and donors remain unwilling to commit. In 2022, the VALID Nutrition Charity will continue to represent the disregarded voices of untreated, starving children by intensifying our efforts to remove what is an unscientific (and thus unjustified) block to the global use of plant-based RUTF products.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2487EN/ca2487en.pdf>

² With support from **Concern Worldwide** and **Irish Aid**, Dr Collins is also responsible for pioneering the UN approved model of care, *Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM)* which continues to save the lives of tens of thousands of starving children annually.

³ Comprehensive Dossier, as submitted to WHO and supported by independent stakeholders, is available.

Communications

We continually review our website material and social media streams, providing regular updates to our supporters. Relevant items are shared on our social media platforms including Twitter and LinkedIn.

CMAM 20 years on: Going to scale in fragile contexts (A conference for practitioners hosted by Concern Worldwide on 22-25 March 2021)

2021 was another year marked by numerous virtual meetings imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Of particular interest to VALID Nutrition was the **Concern Worldwide** and **Irish Aid** Conference which focused on a review of **CMAM (Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition)** after 20 years of implementation, and which **sought to examine the barriers** that are still in place and preventing acutely malnourished children from receiving the care they need; and **to identify enablers to overcome these challenges**. As the pioneer of CMAM, VALID's Founder - Dr Steve Collins, MBE – was invited to make the opening presentation and asked to set the scene regarding his thoughts on the evolution of CMAM over the past two decades.

In what was a very powerful and persuasive presentation, Steve voiced his frustration that since this proven model of care was adopted by the UN in 2007, there has been **no further (approved) product innovation**, despite the fact that Ready-to-Use Food (RUTF) product accounts for approximately 50% of treatment costs; and we are **still only reaching around 10-15%⁴ of children who need treatment**.



Steve believes that these two facts are linked and outlined what is a dysfunctional approach to malnutrition with multiple barriers blocking innovation, competition and meaningful private sector engagement. At the same time, and despite the rhetoric, he suggested that there is little practical action to help address climate change, to improve land utilisation or to sustainably integrate treatment with prevention. Following 15 years of voluntary stewardship with the VALID Nutrition Charity⁵ and thus without apology, he used the example of the **WHO Guideline Review of non-milk RUTF** conducted in July 2020, and the fact that it **continues to block approval** of not just VALID's, but **all plant-based innovations in RUTF product**. With the following quote and regarding product efficacy, he summarized eloquently the flawed approach and outcome of pooling fundamentally different data sets⁶:

"...On that breakthrough morning in 1903, if they had been looking out at the Wright Brothers flying past in their biplane, the WHO would still have concluded that sustained mechanical flight was impossible - because they would have pooled all their previous failed flight attempts and decided that it was not possible!"

Dr. Steve Collins, MBE – CMAM 2020: 22-25 March 2021

Whilst Steve acknowledged that we have an important obligation to make sure that products are safe and effective and that a high quality RCT is an important tool to check this; he also highlighted that we likewise have **an obligation to treat more than 10% of those that require treatment, and that increasing product choice and competition in the RUTF market is a clear way to achieve this**. Steve's aim was to advocate for a change in approach, not just around the need for more innovation in food aid products, but more generally around how data is used and operationalised, and how the sector deals with collaboration, the private sector, innovation, increasing resilience and mitigating climate change – and specifically the **unnecessary barriers** that we have in place preventing these.

In his closing, he highlighted the fact that the past **15 years of efforts to really scale CMAM have been a failure** and suggested that we need to question our supply side, medical approach to Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and to look back to his original

⁴ The figure of 10-15% is based on *incidence rates* not *prevalence rates*. The latter which is more commonly used (but is inappropriate in the context of SAM), flatters treatment statistics and reflects the more commonly quoted 23-25% rate].

⁵ The Soya-Maize-Sorghum (SMS) RUTF recipe was created by VALID Nutrition - the public charity that Dr Collins originally founded in the UK in 2005 and of which he is a Trustee and long-term volunteer - and forms a core part of VALID's strategy to decrease the cost of treatment of Acute Malnutrition and to link treatment to prevention by strengthening local food value chains.

⁶ The WHO Review had pooled 5 non-enhanced plant-based recipes against VALID's successful **amino-acid enhanced** plant-based recipe – thus ensuring the methodology was flawed from the outset.

model and to put the “Community” back into CMAM, as well as looking to other models of how we can go about this. To learn more about this event please see the following articles published by DEVEX: ([despite-pressure-who-review-keeps-status-quo-malnutrition-treatment](#); and [community-based-management-of-malnutrition-a-partially-realized-promise-20-years-on](#)).

WHO/UNICEF Stakeholder Technical Consultation on RUTF – 9th and 10th November 2021

Following publication of the WHO Review of non-milk RUTF in April 2021, VALID Nutrition and other leading stakeholders received an invitation to a ‘**Technical Consultation on RUTF**’ with WHO and UNICEF officials on 9th and 10th November 2021. While the subsequent meeting was only a ‘consultation’ (and therefore no formal outcomes came from the meeting), the overall discussions and exchanges were disappointing. The WHO’s Guideline on protein (which currently **blocks all plant-based formulations**) remains as the baseline and it was confirmed that the CODEX wording on protein in RUTF has now been agreed (despite its inherent contradictions and with consequent ambiguity on the matter of acceptable protein source). Furthermore, it was announced that UNICEF are providing funding for “Acceptability” Trials for alternative formulations for RUTF – so starting right back at the beginning and ignoring 15 years of donor funded innovation and progress that VALID’s peer reviewed research has already demonstrated!

So whilst it seems that VALID’s consistent message about no (accepted) innovation and consequently no choice in this institutional market since its inception 20 years ago, is finally resonating, and that research to try and catch-up will soon get underway; the Trustees of VALID Nutrition and our supporters, are resolute that ignoring existing evidence and **forcing donors and more importantly children, to continue to wait several years before they can access more cost-effective and sustainable solutions to malnutrition, is unacceptable and must be challenged.**

The future of pro-biotics in tackling malnutrition

Whilst during 2021, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has further exacerbated levels of malnutrition and continued to cause economic instability, VALID has re-engaged with leading experts and scientists at **University College Cork** and **Teagasc** (Ireland’s research, advisory and education agency on agriculture, horticulture, food and rural development) on the potential of a new pro-biotic, plant-based product and building on the learnings from research conducted by VALID over the past decade. With the impact of COVID-19 on malnutrition, we believe this prospect remains pertinent and is more relevant than ever.

With appropriate funding, the project could build on the early pioneering work that VALID has previously undertaken on the application of probiotics and prebiotics in the treatment of severe acute malnutrition in Malawi in 2009 [Ref: Kerac, M. et al (2009), *Probiotic and prebiotic enhanced Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) in the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in Malawi: a double blind randomized controlled efficacy trial*. The Lancet (374)]. We are also engaged with the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology in Oxford to examine the role of pre and probiotics in RUTF.

2021 – Nutrition Year of Action

Regarding progress towards the global nutrition targets and following the set-backs of 2020, the beginning of 2021 saw the launch of the United Nations **Nutrition Year of Action**. This was considered a historic opportunity to modify the way the world tackled global commitments to end malnutrition in all its forms. Following September’s [United Nations Food Systems Summit](#) in New York, the year concluded on December 8, with the [Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit](#) (N4G) and once again, bringing together governments, businesses, and civil society to scale up efforts to ensure access to healthy diets for all and an end to malnutrition in all its forms.

As detailed earlier above and following an extensive R&D programme consisting of 3 Randomised Controlled Efficacy Trials (RCTs) spanning 15 years, the VALID charity has developed a plant-based, lower cost, ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) recipe that when barriers for use are removed by the WHO, will allow choice and provide local manufacturers in Africa with a competitive advantage versus those supplying product from offshore. In addition to the direct benefits to local agriculture and supply chains, this is a hugely positive forward step for local children suffering from the adverse effects of malnutrition. Local solutions save lives and grow stronger economies and communities. See N4G’s assessment and endorsement of VALID’s commitment [here: globalnutritionreport_nutrition-growth-commitment-tracking/valid-nutrition/](#)

Funding and Finance

Incoming resources to date have consisted of income from grants, donations and revenue from consultancy services and royalties. The expected temporary absence of earned royalty income due to the preparations for the new factory relocation and build in Malawi, has unfortunately now been compounded by the unexpected and detrimental impact of Covid-19 related delays on project

financing. This has resulted in the impromptu but necessary decision to terminate the project plans and subsequently to close the Malawi facility. Consequently, and temporarily, VALID Nutrition has had to radically reduce resource and to cut back on business development. The effect on income and expenditure lines has resulted in an ongoing but temporary deficit on operating activities.

Whilst Covid-19 has been untimely and considerably disruptive to our overall strategic and impact objectives, the potential of our new food technology IP requires that VALID Nutrition continues to work towards becoming a self-sustaining social enterprise funded through the sales and marketing of effective, low-cost nutritional products. Key to our model is the complete alignment of revenue generation with social impact. In contrast to traditional aid and development organisations, VALID Nutrition does not invest revenue into public fundraising activities, preferring instead the autonomy of basing our competitive advantage on the quality and effectiveness of our products and services. Obviously, it will take some time to regroup following the closure in Malawi and before the full benefits of our significant achievements to date filters through to providing sufficient revenue to fully fund VALID Nutrition. In the meantime, finding the “bridge” funding required to enable us to continue to pioneer real change in the way that malnutrition is addressed remains a challenge.

Our day-to-day activities are strongly supported by a distinguished group of Directors from both the public and private sectors, and we benefit directly and hugely on a pro-bono basis from their time and inputs. Our lean structure is deliberate and designed to reduce costs and enabling smarter, progressive and more efficient work methods. A full set of our audited Financial Statements is available to the public upon request to: office@validnutrition.org

Looking Ahead

The COVID pandemic has shown how **when the needs of those suffering are put first and foremost – and the private sector is encouraged, and regulators are pragmatic, astonishing speed, outcomes and impact can all be achieved. The emergency of SAM is no less important than COVID.**

Following 15 years of collaborative research effort, VALID and its collaborators have developed a lower cost and more effective, amino-acid enhanced, plant-based Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food product that provides an opportunity to deliver a superior and more cost-effective solution to a global problem that kills between 1-2 million children per year. Additionally, this plant-based recipe will directly impact and improve upon the ability of local manufacturers to compete and thus reshape a global market which still involves significant amounts of imported product into Africa, and worth approximately USD 250 million.



VALID Nutrition is also determined to source funding and strategic partnerships that will facilitate the provision of evidence-based solutions for tackling chronic malnutrition – solutions that will demonstrate to aid and food industries alike, that there is a viable market for providing people with the missing nutrients their children need and, that by developing and investing in this market, we can reduce and eventually eliminate this scourge once and for all. Harnessing the private sector to bring vast new resources to bear on this age old problem is crucial if we are to reach and prevent malnutrition in over 149 million children annually.

We believe that ending the scourge of malnutrition and the devastation it causes is not a problem that can be resolved without combining the efforts, skills and resources of both the public and private sectors. Indeed, market driven solutions are imperative to creating and providing sustainable solutions to malnutrition in local communities. Through the development of new ethical market mechanisms we can deliver at scale, nutritious food options at affordable prices – thus for the first time, enabling mothers and communities with autonomous choices that harness their capacity to take control and responsibility for their own malnourished children over the longer term.

VALID Nutrition, in brief:

- 👄 **Based on evidence**, VALID Nutrition will continue to advocate for formal approval of their lower cost, amino-acid enhanced, plant-based, ready-to-use product. When the (arbitrary) barriers to plant-based alternatives are removed by the WHO, the cost reductions associated with this new recipe will mean that its global roll out will allow an additional 1,000,000 starving children to be treated each year within existing global aid budgets for CMAM.
- 👄 Whilst 2021 brought about the unplanned exit of the Charity from Malawi, **we are proud** that in just over a decade VALID Nutrition Malawi has:
 - Successfully **pioneered local manufacturing of RUTF in Africa** (first to manufacture on the continent).
 - Has produced almost 50 million sachets of ready-to-use therapeutic food products, equating to the **treatment of almost 355,000 local children** with Severe Acute Malnutrition.
 - Up until decommissioning, had **almost eliminated the need for any ready-to-use therapeutic food to be imported into Malawi from Europe or the USA**. This is a significant fact given that approximately 50% of the market is currently supplied from offshore.
 - Researched and served to assist local farmers and suppliers as well as providing employment and skills transfer. All this has had, **a hugely beneficial multiplier effect on the local economy**.
- 👄 The VALID Nutrition Charity **continues to engage with operational research to develop and test additional products** to tackle various forms of malnutrition, including chronic malnutrition.