



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



Amino-acid enhanced, **plant-based formula.**
Cost effective and adaptable to alternate product formulations.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF 2023

"We have an obligation to treat more than 10% of those that require treatment. Reducing cost and increasing competition in the RUTF market is a clear way to achieve this."

Dr. Steve Collins, MBE - Founder & Director

Executive Summary

Welcome to VALID Nutrition’s Annual Review. The purpose of this document is to provide our supporters and the public with a candid review of VALID Nutrition’s activities and developments during 2023, including an overview of our plans for the year ahead.

Treatment of **severe acute malnutrition** is dominated by the public sector but limited in both delivery and performance by funding availability (donor demand). The result is a distorted market that focuses more attention on the actors and funders, ahead of the needs of the child. This translates into **less than 15%¹ of cases of severe acute malnutrition globally being reached, and leaves millions of vulnerable children with a greatly increased risk of death.** Additionally, the market design is hampered by the limitations of UNICEF’s logistical capacities as the main supplier (and de facto market regulator) of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) products. Consequently, there is only one milk-peanut based RUTF product in use and it has been procured for almost 20 years at broadly the same price! More recently prices have risen steeply due to ongoing and compounding global issues and because of a lack of any alternative RUTF products, there continues to be an artificially created and thus totally unnecessary dependence on imports of RUTF product into Africa.

The broader **Affordable Nutrition market** is also not meeting the needs of poor consumers by acting to **prevent chronic malnutrition** (which leads to “stunting” and is caused by a prolonged diet deficient in key essential nutrients). Existing products are either not affordable, not effective, or not appealing enough and despite the rhetoric, multiple barriers impeding the engagement of (ethical) “for profit” food companies exists. Consequently, meaningful competition is low here too and existing operators are not motivated to innovate or to lower prices.

VALID Nutrition is a ground-breaking public charity. We are an evidence-based, innovation and solutions generator that is **applying self-sustaining, market-based business principles to addressing malnutrition.** We exist to bring about a sustainable and thus permanent reduction in malnutrition in developing countries by facilitating the research, manufacturing and marketing of locally grown and processed, curative and preventative foods. Since 2002, VALID’s founder (Dr Steve Collins, MBE) has **catalyzed substantial positive impact and change** – initially developing the UN approved, gold standard model for treating acute malnutrition in the community (Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition – CMAM); then pioneering local RUTF manufacture on the continent of Africa; and more recently, **developing the first effective, plant-based nutritional product for treating severe acute malnutrition.**

VALID’s **amino-acid enhanced, plant-based technology**, represents a **paradigm shift towards lower cost nutritional products** that are more effective and that can be made more easily and cost-effectively from locally grown ingredients. This is highly relevant in terms of climate impact and to the localization of supply chains to combat Covid and other globally created disruptions. To date, the market for affordable nutrition in Africa has made limited progress in accessing and improving the nutritional status of low-income families. However, and using our new amino-acid enhanced, plant-based nutritional technology, we can demonstrate the cost reductions and efficacy gains of incorporating this technology into nutritional products for children. **This technology increases the nutritional value of locally grown grains and pulses**, allowing affordable nutrition products that meet UN specifications for Infant and Young Child Feeding, to be lower priced for any given profit margin. This breakthrough can increase the market penetration of such products down towards the so-called Bottom of the Pyramid (BOP). It can also lower the cost of products used by the humanitarian and development sectors to **treat and prevent malnutrition.**

“Global adoption of the low-cost, amino-acid-enhanced plant-based RUTF is essential:

- if treatment coverage is to be increased;*
- if treatment is to be integrated with prevention;*
- and if genuine competition is to be introduced into the global market for RUTF.*

Without this, the goals of the Global Action Plan on wasting will not be attained.”

Dr. Steve Collins, MBE – Founder & Director

¹ The figure of 10-15% is based on *incidence rates* not *prevalence rates*. Prevalence rates are more commonly used by the UN but are inappropriate in the context of SAM. They flatter treatment statistics and reflect the more commonly quoted 23-25% rate.

Governance Structure

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. Following the untimely death in August 2023 of our esteemed colleague, Howard Dalzell, currently the company is actively governed by a Board of three Directors. The Board is chaired by company founder, Dr. Steve Collins, MBE (a Medical Doctor and also holding a PhD in Nutrition, Steve is an internationally recognised expert in humanitarian nutrition interventions, as well as a widely published and respected academic); and includes, Dr. Hans-Jürgen Koch, (former CEO of Deutsche Bank (Suisse) SA) and Caroline Keeling (Chief Executive of Keelings). The Company Secretary is Claire Collins, (entrepreneur, former development worker with Concern Worldwide and wife of Steve Collins). 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 and virtual working 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 paid Employees: 2**
- **Turnover: €97,097 (for year ending 31st March 2023, our financial year).**

Ending Malnutrition

Almost one third (29.3%)² of the world's population – 2.3 billion people – were moderately or severely food insecure in 2021, up from 25.4% before the pandemic. Disparities in the lingering impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and recovery, coupled with ongoing climate impact related disasters, and compounded by the Russian invasion of Ukraine which has rattled both food and energy markets, highlights the extent of policy changes and meaningful public-private partnerships that are required if we are to achieve the opportunity of ending malnutrition in our life-times. This prospect is achievable and yet **ACUTE Malnutrition** continues to affect 45 million³ 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. **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 148 million⁴ children globally – equating to approximately one third of all children in developing countries. Pre-pandemic numbers for children with stunting were declining in all regions except Africa - where due to population growth, the actual numbers of children stunted had risen⁵. These children are denied the opportunity to ever reach their full human potential - both mentally and physically. The lingering impact of the pandemic continues to gradually unfold and sadly will be influenced by how long pandemic-related shocks to health systems combined with more recent and ongoing shocks to economies and food systems persist.

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 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** however, and the prize is enormous, not just for the children concerned, but also their societies and the wider global economy. By changing mind-sets and regarding malnourished children as "customers" (by 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.

² Global Nutrition Report 2022

³ The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023

⁴ The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023

⁵ UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group – Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates 2021 edition

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 earnings 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.

Market transformation through innovative R&D

Ground-breaking, amino-acid enhanced, plant-based (Soya, Maize, Sorghum) RUTF

In 2022 globally, 13.6 million⁶ children under 5 suffered from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) according to UN estimates. The WHO recommended method of treating SAM is the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) model pioneered by VALID's Founder – Dr Steve Collins, MBE - and which involves out-patient or community provision of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to patients. Even before the lingering impacts of Covid-19, the war in Ukraine and unprecedented levels of drought and flooding incidents, less than 15%⁷ of SAM cases globally were being reached, leaving millions of children with a greatly increased risk of death. **A major contributing factor to the low coverage of treatment 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.

With this goal in mind, and following 15 years of collaborative research effort, VALID and its collaborators have developed a lower cost and more effective, amino-acid enhanced, [plant-based therapeutic food product](#) that provides an opportunity to deliver a superior and more cost-effective solution to this global problem that kills between 1-2 million children under five, per year. Additionally, the **plant-based recipe** has the capacity to directly impact and improve upon the ability of local manufacturers to compete and thus **transform a global market** which unnecessarily involves significant amounts of imported product into Africa and is currently worth approximately USD 500 million.

Notwithstanding VALID's extensive evidence to the contrary, plus the (2017) UN Food and Agriculture Organisations (FAO) published view that **protein quality not source** is what matters (and now supported by the 2022 CODEX standard for RUTF which also prioritizes quality over source via a protein score (PDCAAS) >90 – and which the plant-based product meets), a **non-evidence based WHO Guideline dating from 2013** and requiring at least 50% of protein source in RUTF to come from dairy, has continued to block approval of this product (and all plant-based products) for global use. The Guideline's **unscientific emphasis on protein source** rather than quality is critical from a **cost and coverage perspective** and particularly in the context of less than 15% of children requiring treatment 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 plant-based RUTF in Africa from locally grown pulses and grains not only reduces manufacturing costs and carbon footprint, but also conveys the broader development benefits that strengthen food value chains and thus sustain local resilience.

In November 2023 however and quite unexpectedly, a low-key presentation undertaken jointly by the WHO and UNICEF announced a **new WHO Guideline specification for RUTF** based on the CODEX standard. Given its relevance to RUTF product innovation, VALID is embracing what is now a huge opportunity for plant-based RUTF and we are striving to move forward to get this more efficacious and lower-cost product used at last. If supported, we believe that we can transform this market so that choice, competition and therefore the provision of RUTF are enhanced - and many more children can be treated.

⁶ UNICEF: Levels and trends in child malnutrition: Key findings of the 2023 edition. (2023).

⁷ The figure of 10-15% is based on *incidence rates* not *prevalence rates*. Prevalence rates are more commonly used by the UN but are inappropriate in the context of SAM. They flatter treatment statistics and reflect the more commonly quoted 23-25% rate.

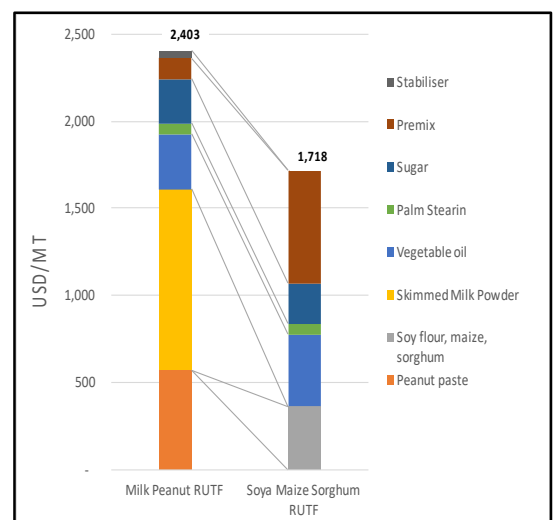
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT - Plant-based, Soya, Maize, Sorghum (SMS)-RUTF:

- It 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 *Recipe Cost Comparison* graph).
- 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.
- **Avoids lactose intolerance** and **nut allergy** in children.
- Contains **10% less sugar** than the original standard RUTF recipe.

In 2024, and in collaboration with partners, the VALID Nutrition Charity will intensify our efforts to represent the marginalized voices of untreated, starving children by generating the additional, large-scale programmatic evidence necessary to showcase the multiple and advanced benefits of plant-based RUTF products for global use.



Recipe Cost Comparison – Estimate (Malawi)



Large-scale operational research using plant-based RUTF

Given the massive hunger crises that have continued to unfold during 2023, NGOs such as the **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**, **Action contre la faim (ACF)** and **Concern Worldwide**, have realised that what are dreadful circumstances on the ground are also **an opportunity to create action that will deliver positive change by deploying VALID’s plant-based RUTF product in large-scale operational research programmes** (and with enhanced monitoring and evaluation to satisfy the WHO’s criterion), throughout Africa. We already know that the product will be successful - not just from the large RCT data published, but also from the results of [a previous operational programme \(2018\)](#) run by the **Government of Malawi** with support from **World Vision** and that achieved > 90 recovery rates. With added monitoring and evaluation from our implementing partners to ensure that they can carefully supervise, record, and evaluate the data generated from these large-scale programmes, this approach will mirror a similarly protracted but eventually successful path to UN approval that was undertaken with CMAM many years ago.

Given the quality of evidence already available on the plant-based RUTF product, VALID is confident that this additional data will provide the necessary further evidence required for formal adoption of the amino-acid enhanced plant-based RUTF thereafter. The adoption of the plant-based recipe can then 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**.

Treatment with SMS-RUTF - Malawi Pilot (2018)



Plant-based food technology – looking for partners beyond the RUTF market

Since 2002, VALID’s founder has **catalyzed substantial change** – initially developing the UN approved, gold standard model for treating malnutrition in the community; then pioneering local RUTF manufacture on the continent of Africa; and more recently, developing the first effective, plant-based nutritional product for treating severe acute malnutrition. VALID’s amino-acid enhanced, plant-based technology, represents a paradigm shift towards **lower cost nutritional products** that are more effective, and that can be made more easily and cost-effectively from locally grown ingredients. This is highly relevant in terms of **climate impact**⁸ and to the **localization of supply chains** to combat Covid and other globally created disruptions including conflict.

VALID’s technology **increases the nutritional value of locally grown grains and pulses**, allowing affordable nutrition products that meet UN specifications for Infant and Young Child Feeding, to be lower priced for any given profit margin. This can increase the market penetration of such products down towards poorer consumers. It can also lower the cost of products used by the humanitarian and development sectors to treat and prevent malnutrition. With the much increased need and thus opportunity for more cost-effective and environmentally sustainable solutions to malnutrition, VALID is **seeking to identify an established strategic partner** who can help to deploy the potential of the new plant-based food technology in Africa, by making it available through broader retail and direct to consumer channels.

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 X and LinkedIn.

In memory of Howard

Howard was a man who thought big.

“Don’t go for a 100,000 euro project” he said the first time we discussed CTC in 2002. “You need to go for a million with a multisectoral research programme if you really want to change things”.

In August 2023, and much too early, VALID Nutrition lost a hugely intelligent, assiduous and compassionate Director and dear friend – Howard Dalzell. [Click here](#) to read a reflection from our Founder – Dr Steve Collins – on the impact of a courageous life well lived and one that is now missed by all at VALID Nutrition:



Howard Dalzell
Life-long Champion of the Underprivileged

RUTF Alternative Formula Co-ordination Meeting

Dr Steve Collins received an invitation on behalf of the **Specialized Food Aid Community of Practice (SFA-CoP)** to speak at their RUTF Alternative Formula Coordination Meeting. The two day event which took place in Washington DC from 5-6 February 2024, was a technical meeting designed to facilitate the exchange of valuable information and to proactively contribute to the development of more cost-effective Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food formulations. The overarching goal is to streamline global efforts aimed at improving the accessibility and affordability of alternative RUTF formulas that maintain equal efficacy. The SFA-CoP is composed of core expert members, and Steve took this opportunity to provide an extensive presentation on VALID’s work around alternative RUTF formulae.

⁸ In addition to the cost advantage of the amino-acid enhanced, plant-based RUTF recipe, VALID Nutrition commissioned a professional report to quantify objectively the advantages in respect of the overall climate impact profile of the new recipe. [The Report](#) compares production of both the milk-peanut RUTF, and the amino-acid enhanced, plant-based RUTF in three geographical locations (Africa, France & USA), and on a “cradle to factory gate” basis. It also compares production of milk-peanut RUTF made in France versus the plant-based RUTF made in Africa. Crucially, it has found that **the overall global warming potential (GWP) impacts of the plant-based RUTF recipe are 47%-52% less than the milk-peanut recipe.**

Jean Mayer Prize for excellence in nutrition science and policy

In April 2023 VALID Nutrition was recognised by the **Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University**, as a top community organization promoting nutrition security, based on VALID Nutrition's efforts, commitment, and positive impact in the field. Impressed by VALID's work "*in driving much needed change in the treatment of severe acute malnutrition*", the selection committee recognised and honoured the VALID Charity (and other top community organisations, including Concern Worldwide) at a formal awards ceremony held in Boston.

The future of pro-biotics in tackling malnutrition

With appropriate funding, VALID remains keen to explore the potential of a new pro-biotic, plant-based product and building on the knowledge from research conducted by VALID over the past decade. With the rising impact of global food insecurity on malnutrition, we believe this prospect remains pertinent and is more relevant than ever. 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 have also engaged with the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology in Oxford to examine the role of pre and probiotics in RUTF.



Funding and Finance

Incoming resources to date have consisted of income from grants, donations and revenue from consultancy services and royalties. The detrimental impact of Covid-19 related delays on project financing for a new factory relocation and expansion project in Malawi resulted in the write-off of royalty income due and an impromptu but necessary decision to terminate the project plans and subsequently to close the Malawi facility in 2021. Consequently, and temporarily, VALID Nutrition has had to radically reduce resources and to cut back on business development. The effect on income and expenditure lines resulted in a temporary deficit on operating activities which has subsequently been addressed with support from and through the advocacy efforts of our Trustees.

Whilst Covid-19 was 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 sustaining the social enterprise until such time as we can share and impart our valuable food technology IP with a similar organisation that can realise our model of directly aligning 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 secure the right partners and before the full benefits of our significant achievements filter through to providing real change in the way that malnutrition is addressed.

In the meantime, 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 to enable 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

*"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

Looking Ahead

In 2023 and now grappling with the legacy of a global pandemic and ongoing major geopolitical conflicts, our global food systems face unprecedented challenges. Sadly, any reading of food security and malnutrition trends leaves us in no doubt but that we are struggling with efforts to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, in all its forms. The major drivers behind these trends include conflict, climate and economic shocks and combined with the subsequent high cost of nutritious foods plus growing inequalities. In June 2022, UNICEF declared that *“the global hunger crisis owing to COVID-19 and precipitated by the conflict in Ukraine is pushing **one child into severe malnutrition every minute in 15 crisis-hit countries**”*. Despite these disturbing facts, and if the global impact of the COVID pandemic has taught us anything, it has shown how **when the needs of those suffering are put first** – and the private sector is encouraged, and regulators are pragmatic - astonishing speed, outcomes and impact can all be achieved. The emergency of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) is no less important than COVID – but a major part of the solution involves recognising the requirement to do things differently. **It is clear that we need to modify traditional power dynamics** and in doing so, make the necessary changes to transform our agrifood systems to become more resilient and to deliver lower cost, affordable, nutritious foods for all, sustainably and inclusively.

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 can directly impact and improve upon the ability of local manufacturers to compete and thus reform a global market which still involves significant amounts of imported product into Africa. However and due to the ongoing failure of the “system” to capitalise on the broader potential afforded to it by the full implementation of the CMAM model, we currently have a model that has ossified and become largely a supply driven extension model of care.



Accordingly, **only ~10-15% of SAM children needing treatment are actually being reached**. This is all happening 24 years after the first CMAM trials and 17 years after the official adoption and supposed global roll out of the model. This is an appalling under achievement in this day and age.

The frustrating fact is that the original vision of CMAM and its much broader potential has been largely lost along the way and in turn, the needs of the consumer (starving children) are unfortunately no longer at the forefront of objectives it seems. To address these shortcomings and in the face of current hunger crises, VALID is reverting to the methods that Dr Collins successfully used to get CMAM accepted back in 2002 (and eventually endorsed in 2007). Back then and confronted with initial blocks from the UN and other sources, Steve (with support from Concern Worldwide and Irish Aid) persuaded some of the major international NGOs to use the CMAM model. When they had successfully treated over 25,000 cases, the huge levels of available evidence essentially persuaded the UN to accept the new model as they simply could not ignore the positive results on the ground. Similarly, VALID intends to use the current dreadful circumstances as **an opportunity to create action that will deliver positive change by deploying VALID’s plant-based RUTF product in large-scale operational research programmes** (and with enhanced monitoring and evaluation to satisfy the WHO’s criterion), throughout Africa. We already know this approach will work - not just from the large RCT data published by VALID, but also from the results of [a previous operational programme \(2018\)](#) run by the Government of Malawi with support from World Vision and that achieved > 90 recovery rates.

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 148 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** and following publication of the new WHO Guideline (2023) on the prevention and management of acute malnutrition - now aligned with CODEX and thus prioritising protein quality over source - **VALID Nutrition seeks support through collaboration** to achieve the adoption of the lower cost, amino-acid enhanced, plant-based, ready-to-use product. 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.
- 🍷 The VALID Nutrition Charity **will continue to engage with operational research to develop and test products** to tackle various forms of malnutrition, including chronic malnutrition.
- 🍷 Whilst COVID and converging circumstances 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**.

VALID Nutrition
March 2024