

See the Truths of Hidden Hunger

Hidden hunger is more than just hunger – it’s a diet lacking in essential micronutrients.

An invisible crisis with visible consequences

More than 5 billion people globally¹ are suffering from micronutrient deficiencies, often referred to as “hidden hunger,” caused by diets lacking essential micronutrients (vitamins and minerals). This overlooked crisis is happening around the world, leading to serious health problems and socio-economic effects. The first step in addressing this crisis is seeing it for what it is – a global problem that demands action now.

Malnutrition claims millions of lives – acting as a major contributor to disease and a leading cause of death, especially in vulnerable populations. Deficiencies in key micronutrients² like iron, vitamin A, iodine, folate, and other micronutrients impact fetal development, reduce workforce productivity, and restrict the physical and cognitive growth of children. At the end of the day, in order to truly end global hunger by 2030, hidden hunger can no longer stay hidden.

Unmasking the myths of malnutrition

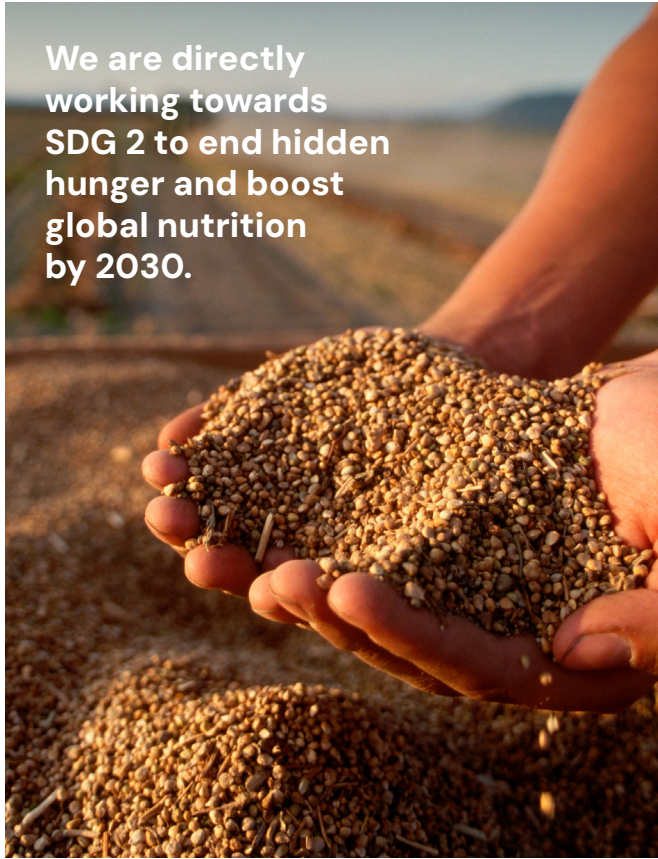
<p>Myth #1 Malnutrition is the same as hunger.</p> <p>Truth – Malnutrition isn’t just about hunger. It can also refer to hidden hunger, which means a diet lacking essential micronutrients (vitamins and minerals), even when enough food is consumed.</p>	<p>Myth #2 Malnutrition is clearly visible on the body.</p> <p>Truth – Malnutrition, especially hidden hunger, may not always be obviously visible. It can affect anyone, regardless of weight, size, or shape.³</p>	<p>Myth #3 Malnutrition isn’t as urgent as other health conditions.</p> <p>Truth – Malnutrition is a leading cause of death and one of the largest causes of disease worldwide.⁵</p>	<p>Myth #4 Malnutrition only affects physical health.</p> <p>Truth – Malnutrition lowers quality of life and limits opportunities, productivity and economic growth.⁶</p>	<p>Myth #5 Malnutrition can be prevented with any kind of food.</p> <p>Truth – Malnutrition prevention demands targeted strategies to ensure those in need can access essential nutrients.</p>
<p>5B¹ people globally are suffering from micronutrient deficiencies.</p>	<p>1 in 2⁴ preschool children experience hidden hunger.</p>	<p>50%⁵ of all deaths among children under 5 are caused by malnutrition.</p>	<p>\$10.5T⁷ a year could be gained if malnutrition was addressed globally.</p>	<p>34% reduction in anemia⁸ due to food fortification efforts in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs).</p>

Stop hidden hunger with end-to-end partnerships

We believe that essential and equitable nutrition is a fundamental human right for all people worldwide – including the most vulnerable. dsm-firmenich works as a purpose-led partner, offering a comprehensive suite of custom solutions and expert services in the global fight against malnutrition.

We create targeted, scalable and cost-effective interventions to fight global micronutrient deficiencies, following the most high-quality standards. We leverage our extensive expertise in public health interventions to bring essential nutrients to the world's most vulnerable populations.

We worked with the World Food Programme to help improve the nutritional value of 10 foods used in humanitarian operations and to increase local production capacity for fortified foods.



We are directly working towards SDG 2 to end hidden hunger and boost global nutrition by 2030.

See the impact

- **Bangladesh:** Through our partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), we've helped support more than 190 millers in Bangladesh to produce fortified rice that provides essential vitamins and minerals to over 14 million people.
- **Nigeria:** In collaboration with UNICEF, Sight and Life, and the Government of Nigeria, we've scaled up micronutrient powder programs, delivering vital nutrients to over 3 million children across 10 Nigerian states.
- **Across Global South:** Our partnership with World Vision has brought nutritionally improved foods via staple food fortification and new public health initiatives in countries like Brazil, Rwanda, Kenya, and Ethiopia – helping spur local economic growth.

1. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(24\)00276-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(24)00276-6/fulltext)
2. https://www.who.int/health-topics/micronutrients#tab-tab_1
3. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10960185/>
4. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(22\)00367-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(22)00367-9/fulltext)
5. <https://www.who.int/news/item/26-09-2019-malnutrition-is-a-world-health-crisis>
6. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition>
7. <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/about-malnutrition/>
8. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33467050/>

Join us in making hidden hunger SEEN

Seize the opportunity to end hidden hunger – learn more on our website.

Why partner with us?

At dsm-firmenich, we know that health unlocks life's possibilities and that's why we see the purpose behind every nutrition interventions. As your end-to-end purpose-led partner, we provide solutions for essential and equitable nutrition and work with you towards a shared goal – together elevating global health.

[Click here to get started](#)

Your end-to-end partner

Products – Customized solutions – Expert services

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