



RIGHT START

Improving nutrition and health for women and adolescent girls

Improving the quality of nutrition and healthcare for women and adolescent girls in Indonesia

The “Right Start Initiative” is a comprehensive program reaching nine countries in Asia and Africa, designed and run by Nutrition International in order to improve the quality of nutrition for millions of adolescent girls, women of reproductive age, newborns and young children. In Indonesia, Nutrition International will invest \$1.5M (CAD) over five years to 2020. The program is two-fold. Nutrition International will: (1) contribute to preventing anaemia in adolescent girls by supporting a weekly iron-folic acid supplementation program in schools in 35 districts across two provinces, West Java and Banten, and working with the Government of Indonesia on a national strategy for the control and prevention of anaemia; and (2) support the Government of Indonesia in improving and strengthening its national flour fortification program, reaching millions of women of reproductive age, in order to prevent anaemia and protect pregnancies from neural tube defects such as spina bifida.

The Need

In Indonesia, at least one in three adolescent girls has anaemia¹, which can impact her physical well-being, performance at work or school, and increase the possibility of complications and fetal development issues if she becomes pregnant.

Our Goal

The program aims to prevent anaemia, complications and deaths during pregnancy and delivery for mothers, and neural tube defects such as spina bifida in newborns. Well-nourished adolescent girls are better able to go to school and get an education. Well-nourished women have safer pregnancies, healthier children and are more productive members of society and the workforce. The program will have positive social and economic impacts by eliminating obstacles that malnutrition imposes on some of the most vulnerable populations, preventing them from reaching their full potential and that of the next generation.

Right Start in Indonesia



Interventions and impact by 2020

➔ **13.9M women of reproductive age and adolescent girls** across Indonesia will have access to commercial wheat flour fortified with iron and folic acid. Although wheat flour fortification is mandatory in Indonesia, the current standards don't align with World Health Organization (WHO) standards, which may reduce its impact on public health.

Nutrition International will support the improvement of the national wheat flour fortification program by strengthening leadership and advocating for the national government to adopt WHO standards. Nutrition International will also support the legislative process by assisting the government in issuing new standards and modifying current operating procedures for enforcement. These measures will ensure the population, particularly women and adolescent girls, can reap the full benefits of fortification – most notably a considerable reduction in anaemia cases.

➔ **4.9M additional adolescent girls** in 35 districts of West Java and Banten provinces will receive weekly iron-folic acid supplementation and nutrition education at school in order to prevent anaemia, which is a significant burden in this age group. In addition, their teachers and school administrators will be trained on how to integrate nutrition into the curriculum.

Expectations from the project by 2020

Avert 2.2M cases of anaemia in women of reproductive age and adolescent girls.

Protect 1.6M pregnancies from neural tube defects associated with a folic acid deficiency.

The Right Start Initiative: A catalytic platform for change

The Right Start Initiative is based on five pillars: high-impact programs, resource mobilization, new strategic partnerships, technical leadership, and advocacy. With \$75M (CAD) in anchor funding granted by the Canadian government, Nutrition International is launching programs in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal and Tanzania, aiming to reach 50 million women, adolescent girls, newborns and young children by 2020.

These programs include packages of interventions adapted to each country: weekly iron and folic acid supplementation for adolescent girls, food fortification, iron and folic acid supplementation for pregnant women, as well as solutions to improve nutrition for infants and young children. Building on the anchor funding, Nutrition International is reaching out to donors, foundations and the private sector working for global nutrition to leverage this investment with the objective of doubling its reach to 100 million people.

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About Nutrition International

Founded in 1992, Nutrition International is a global organization dedicated to delivering proven nutrition interventions to those who need them most. Working in partnership with countries, donors and implementers, our experts conduct cutting-edge nutrition research, support critical policy formulation, and integrate nutrition into broader development programs. In more than 60 countries, primarily in Asia and Africa, Nutrition International nourishes people to nourish life. Find out more at www.NutritionIntl.org